

YAHOO!

Internet Life

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 1998

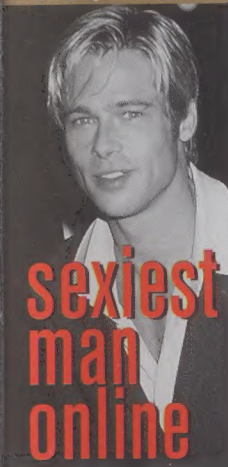
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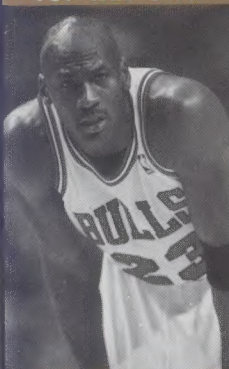
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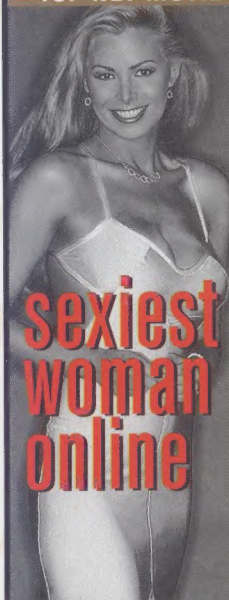
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007

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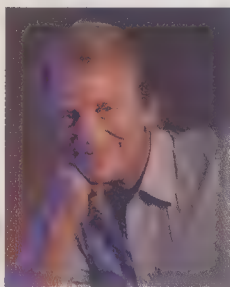
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EDITOR'S NOTE



JEFF WEINER

Happy New Net!

Welcome to our second annual combination Net roundup, New Year's party, and performance review. This is the issue in which we

look at the year's highs and lows, the most popular and the most peculiar, the sparklers and the kazooos, without taking all of it too seriously.

That we leave to the Editor's Note.

Though the Net Year in Review gives you a good cross section of what happened during the cyberyear, one thing I'll admit we cut back on: the police blotter. In our recap of Internet coverage in the traditional media this year, if we'd given as much space to various crimes, scare stories, and general Net-induced mayhem as appeared in the nation's newspapers and on TV, we'd have called this the Net Police Gazette issue. Kidnappings, cults, fraud, drug peddling, perversion, even cruelty to bees—if there was an Internet angle to a story, it was a headline. Often, as it turned out, the Net connection was a major stretch.

Why? Probably because the Net has grown big enough, pervasive enough, sexy enough to have taken on scapegoat appeal. Yes, there's nasty stuff online, all right—with almost a quarter of the U.S. public checking out the Net, not everyone is a sweetheart. And that's the point: The Internet is no longer an exotic colony; it's human beings, good, bad, and impolite, embracing a new medium that is just taking shape.

Come to think of it, it is a lot like a wild, wondrous party: Nobel Prize winners, entertainers, financiers, and teachers mingling in the same room with hustlers, teenagers who drop their pants in public, and kids crawling beneath the tables. There's great conversation and useful networking going on, but also a fair amount of mindless ranting, lamp shades on heads, and chairs being tossed out of windows. As with all parties, we're soon going to have to agree on some party rules for ourselves—keeping the kids out of harm's way, controlling the creeps—or the neighbors are going to call the cops. (They've already done it once.) Then the party will become less fun, less useful, and a lot less wondrous.

But in the meantime, the festivities continue, and we celebrate a year full of new advances, creative breakthroughs, and the usual cockfights. We've gathered it all in one gala issue—enjoy it, because we're going home to sleep it off.

Barry Golson

Barry Golson Editor-in-Chief
bgolson@zd.com

OUR TEAR-OUT SITE ADDRESS GUIDE IS ON PAGE 17

How does this magazine work together with your Web site?

You can find parts of this issue—and other, daily features—on our site at www.yil.com

What's this got to do with Yahoo!, the directory?

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Not So Solid after All

I would like to suggest that you reconsider your recommendation of the filtering program CyberSitter from Solid Oak Software ["Netstoppers," November '97, page 78]. This product not only filters out X-rated sites, but also many sites (such as the National Organization of Women) with legitimate discussions of social issues. Worst of all, CyberSitter has tried to stifle criticism of its filtering policies by blocking sites which host such criticism such as Bennett Hazleton's excellent Peacefire anticensorship site (www.peacefire.org).

When I was made aware of this problem, I wrote inquiring quite civilly about [the company's] blocking policies. My inquiry was met with rudeness bordering on harassment, and apparently others have been served similarly. In spite of the frequent mention of CyberSitter in online media, my impression of Solid Oak Software is that they are not a professional-caliber company, and any recommendation of their products should take their attitudes and behavior into account.

—LINDSAY HAISLEY
fmouse@fmp.com

Wired Folk

You really should have included Arlonet in your list of the best music sites ["The Web Top 40," October '97, page 67]! It's a very good site, many different areas such as discography, tablature, concert updates, archives, clips of music, photo gallery, trivia contest, online ordering from Rising Son Records, site search, message boards, and links of all sorts.

—SKAI
skai@netins.net

Tori—Bigger than the Net?

It was wonderful to see Tori Amos spotlighted in your October 1997 issue [page 76], but it wasn't exactly, what shall I say? Accurate. Admittedly, a musician having a devout following on the information superhighway is

certainly going to help him or her, but that's not why Tori kept her following. She kept it because she is an amazingly talented woman, and she is as devout a fan of her fans as they are of her.

—REBECCA KAPLAN
everynicedrrrl@hotmail.com

Different for Girls

I agree with Carolee H. Rose about *Y-Life* ["Backchat," November '97, page 15]. Many women read your magazine and are interested in computers. Occasionally, you could put someone like Tom Cruise on the cover. Chris O'Donnell is the only decent guy you put on your cover, but you covered his face with his Robin mask. Bill Gates, Conan O'Brien, and Shaquille O'Neal are not my idea of attractive men.

—SUSAN BARRON
sjb1@ra.msstate.edu

School Games

Since when have college athletics stopped being a sport? I picked up your November issue ["Sports on the Net: Get in the Game," page 63] expecting to find some cool articles and sites for all sports [not just pro]. What gives? How about some links for college recruiting and links to the major conferences and teams?

—JIM CROCKER
jcrocker@arkansas.net

Two-Part Message

Martin Sheen, with regard for his disdain for the Net, said in your October issue [page 27], "I fear that the advantage [of the Internet] lies with the affluent, and it leaves the poor in the Third World that much further behind."

Mr. Sheen could not be further from the truth. I have lived in the Third

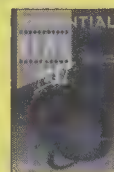
World, the Marshall Islands, for 16 years. I have no TV, no movie theaters, no shopping malls, virtually no entertainment—except for the Internet. Many of the schools out here are online: The Net is connecting the poor with one of the cheapest education systems available in the world. 50,000,000 different places you can go in the world without leaving your seat.

Also, e-mail has made us part of the outside world in a way you could never imagine. If I sent this letter to you via the postal system—which depends on overcrowded planes and boats—if we were lucky, you would have gotten it in two weeks. Now, because of the Internet you have it in seconds. What I believe Mr. Sheen was really trying to say was that he was afraid of learning how to use a computer. He didn't need to bring up us, the Third World, as his excuse. We LOVE the Internet!

—JACK NIEDENTHAL
bikini@ntamar.com

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MEMORABLE SITE OF THE MONTH

Louvre Around the Clock

WebMuseum Network

sunsite.unc.edu/wm

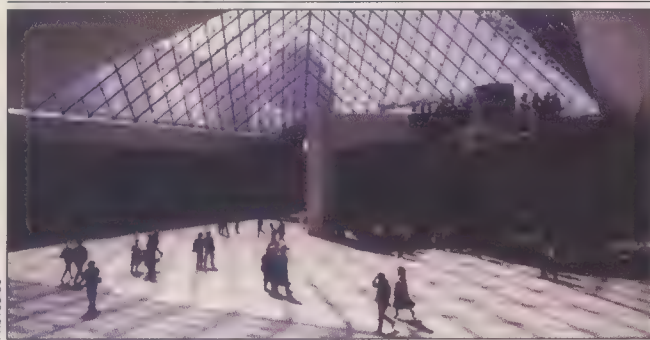


PHOTO © SC

MISS THE MET? LONGING FOR THE LOUVRE? DIAL UP WebMuseum Network. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, this virtual collection of art from the thirteenth century through the present neatly packages quality photos of paintings and sculptures alongside intelligent primers about art movements through the ages. Frenchman Nicolas Pioch, who launched the Network in 1994 because "more artistic stuff was needed" on the Web, started as a one-man show, posting pictures of paintings, detailed histories, and artists' minibiographies in his free time. Volunteers steadily joined the effort, and now more than 30 mirror sites beam his galleries from more than 20 countries. Bookmark this site and never be tongued again when the dinner topic turns to fine art.

"I'm chairman of the committee, and I've still got 12 o'clock blinking on my VCR."

—REP. BILLY TAUZIN (R-Louisiana), chairman of the House Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection subcommittee, to *Newsday*

SEARCH RESULTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dick Clark 4,181

Clark bar. 181

Open bar 1,085

Alka-Seltzer 1,971



OBSESSIONS

PEOPLE PLACES TRENDS

"SPACE GHOST: COAST TO COAST"

Sixties TV-cartoon star Space Ghost (aka Tad Ghostal) is back "hosting" two Cartoon Network shows. Twentysomethings are celebrating his triumphant return with the requisite Web ring, mailing lists, and at least a dozen reverent sites. After all, John Travolta isn't the only star worthy of a comeback. **Start @:** advicom.net/~cshuffle/sghost



RIVEN DRIVEN

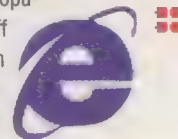


For four years, Myst devotees have pondered every detail of the smash-hit computer game and its forever-in-development sequel, Riven. Now that it's here, fixated Rivenites haven't left their monitors. At press time, Gamespot.com touted the sole Riven walk-through—a great

way to sample the new worlds without ruining the surprise. **Start @:** www.riven.com or www.gamespot.com/features/riven_strat/index.html

DESPERATELY SEEKING "IE"

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 proves the enduring popularity of an online freebie, even if you can wax and buff an entire minivan while it downloads. Microsoft.com reported 1 million downloads in the first 48 hours after the product's release. The number of downloads doubled seven days later. **Start @:** www.microsoft.com



SITES OF THE RICH & WELL CONNECTED

Leahy: A True Net "Capitolist"

Senator Patrick Leahy

www.senate.gov/~leahy

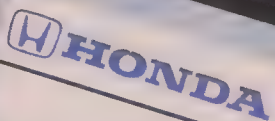
Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) is one of Congress's most outspoken advocates of Net advances, such as unrestricted data encryption, and vehemently opposed the abolished Communications Decency Act. Since 1995, he has published a Web site that outshines those of most organizations,



public or private, with its useful, lively content for businesspeople and other interested constituents. Would-be entrepreneurs can check out the "Cyber Selling in Vermont" starter kit, while "Vermont Artists"

promotes the state's budding talents. You'll also find links to info on some of Leahy's causes, including the abolition of anti-personnel land mines, and reports on carcinogenic environmental factors. Leahy tells *Y-Life*: "The Internet has become an indispensable tool in my Senate office. Messages as concise as a phone call or as detailed as a legal brief fly back and forth at all hours, boosting efficiency and effectiveness." Now who could argue with a government official who talks about increasing *efficiency*?

Find out which sites Senator Leahy, an Aries, would find the most intriguing at Your Yastrologer, www.yastrologer.com, *Y-Life's* cosmos-driven guide to the Web.



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SITE ADDRESS GUIDE

JANUARY 1998

Here's your handy, tear-out guide to the site addresses in this issue.
For the complete list, including updates, see our Web site at www.yil.com.

You can find all the addresses for our special feature on **1997: The Year on the Net** (Pages 54-67) and for **Click** (Pages 14-30) and **Pretty Strange** (Page 106) at our Web site, www.yil.com, along with the usual mix of columns and reviews.

PLUS: The Guru is IN! Get answers to all those taxing surf problems by writing to our resident Surf Guru at our academy of Webology, Surf School.

Yippee!/Ya-Hooey! (Page 34)

- **Judy Tenuta Show** aentv.com/home/judy/judymain.htm
- **HIV InSite** hivinsite.ucsf.edu
- **Whitbread Round the World Race** www.whitbread.org/main.html
- **The Ball** sunsite.unc.edu/lou/ball
- **The Giant Aluminum Ball** www.webcom.com/sc/aluminum.html
- **Princess Leia's Metal Bikini** www.d-n-a.net/users/dnetwrBs/Leia/leia.htm
- **Airsickness Bag Museum** rampages.onramp.net/~stevebo/airsick.html

Cool Tools (Pages 36-40)

- **Sharp Electronics Corp.** www.sharp-usa.com
- **Canon U.S.A. Inc.** www.canondv.com
- **WorldGate Communications Inc.** www.wgate.com
- **Kodak Picture Network** www.kodakpicturenetwork.com
- **Panasonic** www.panasonic.com/alive
- **Manticore Products Inc.** www.manticore.com

E-Z User (Pages 42-46)

- **Surf School** www.surfschool.com
- **Allwhois** www.allwhois.com
- **WebFerret** www.ferretsoft.com
- **Talk City** www.talkcity.com
- **Daily Double Download** www.doubledownload.com
- **Hotmail** www.hotmail.com
- **Yahoo! Mail** mail.yahoo.com
- **Juno** www.juno.com
- **TheTrip.com** www.thetrip.com
- **Never Forget** www.neverforget.com
- **Ask Jeeves** www.askjeeves.com

E-Z Shopper (Page 48)

- **iPrint** www.iprint.com
- **Archie McPhee** www.mcphee.com

- **BestUsedCDs.com** bestusedcds.com
- **Fridgedoor.com** www.fridgedoor.com
- **Jango** www.jango.com
- **Going Going Gone** www.goinggoinggone.com
- **Maui Buy the Inch** aloha-mall.com/buy-maui

Angela Gunn: Dot.Dot.Dot.Com (Page 50)

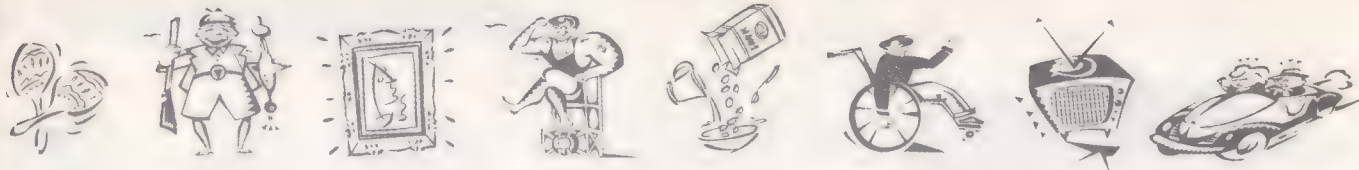
- **Leonardo Lives** www.leonardolives.org
- **The Aerodrome** www.theaerodrome.com
- **State of the Climate** www.panda.org/climate_event
- **World Wide Information Outlet** www.certificate.net/wwwio

Charles Pappas: Safety Net (Page 52)

- **The Nando Times** www2.nando.net
- **Mercury Center** www.sjmercury.com/index.htm
- **News.com** www.news.com
- **CNN Interactive** www.cnn.com
- **Yahoo! News** www.yahoo.com/headlines
- **Douglas Rushkoff** clix.net/5thworld/dr/index.html
- **Conspiracy Nation** www.shout.net/~bigred/cn.html
- **Project Censored** censored.sonoma.edu/censored

5-Star Site: Project Gutenberg (Pages 68-71)

- **Project Gutenberg** www.gutenberg.net
- **ESPN SportsZone** espn.sportszone.com
- **Mayo Health O@sis** www.mayo.ivl.com
- **Women's Wire** www.women.com
- **Beatrice's Web Guide** www.bguide.com
- **Expedia.com** expedia.com
- **Salon** www.salonmagazine.com
- **The Dominion** www.scifi.com
- **HotWired** www.hotwired.com
- **Tripod** www.tripod.com
- **Smithsonian** www.si.edu
- **NASA** www.nasa.gov
- **Addicted to Noise** www.addict.com
- **E! Online** www.eonline.com



S I T E A D D R E S S G U I D E

JANUARY 1998

Surfing with the Bulls (Pages 72-77)

- **Briefing.com/E*Trade** www.briefing.com/etrade
- **Alt.Culture** www.altculture.com
- **The Motley Fool** www.fool.com
- **StockTools** www.stocktools.com
- **Networth** networth.quicken.com
- **Market Guide** www.marketguide.com
- **MarketScope@Home** www.stockinfo.standardpoor.com/mks.htm
- **Briefing.com** www.briefing.com
- **Ameritrade** www.ameritrade.com
- **Datek Online** www.datek.com
- **Discover Brokerage Direct** www.dbdirect.com
- **DLJdirect** www.dljdirect.com
- **e*Schwab** www.schwab.com
- **E*Trade** www.etrade.com
- **Fidelity Web Xpress** personal.fidelity.com/trade/index.html
- **Jack White & Company** www.jackwhiteco.com
- **Muriel Siebert** www.msiebert.com
- **National Discount Brokers** www.ndb.com
- **The NET Investor** www.netinvestor.com
- **Pacific Brokerage** www.tradepbs.com
- **Quick & Reilly** www.quick-reilly.com
- **Scottrade** www.scottrade.com
- **Wall Street Electronica** www.wallstreete.com
- **Waterhouse webBroker** www.waterhouse.com

Incredibly Useful Sites (Pages 78-79)

- **Rank This!** www.rankthis.com

- **Bounce.to** www.bounce.to
- **Diet Analysis Web Page** dawp.futuresouth.com
- **Dating Patterns Analyzer** www.cam.org/~jmauld/English/dateanal.html
- **The I-95 Exit Information Guide Online** www.usastar.com/i95/homepage.htm
- **SAT Tip of the Day** www.powerprep.com/tipofday.shtml
- **Holidays on the Net** www.holidays.net/page2.htm
- **Gender Determination Interactive Test** www.childbirth.org/articles/boyorgirl.html
- **PubCrawler** www.pubcrawler.com
- **Incredibly Useful Site of the Day** www.incrediblyuseful.com

Touched by the Net (Page 81)

- **The Copyright Website** www.benedict.com
- **Under Shekhina's Wings: Cross-Cultural Women's Spirituality** www.geocities.com/Athens/1501/shekhina.html
- **Gary & Pat Vick's Coffee Table** www.upci.org/alabama/vickhome.html-ssi
- **Iraq.net** www.iraq.net
- **Haiku Headlines of the Day** www.coolwebsite.com/haikus.htm

Old Way/Net Way (Pages 82-83)

- **House of Moët & Chandon** www.moët.com/taste/tasting.html
- **Table Wine** www.tablewine.com/archive4.htm
- **UPS** www.ups.com/tracking/tracking.html
- **Mike's Page of Baby Names** www.charm.net/~shack/name/babynm.html





- **Parent Zone** www.parentzone.com/parents/bnames.htm
- **Baby Names!** www.babynames.com

Roger Ebert's Top 20 Movie Sites 1997 (Pages 84-88)

- **Internet Movie Database** us.imdb.com/search
- **Movie Review Query Engine at Telerama** www.cinema.pgh.pa.us/movie/reviews
- **Cinemachine** www.cinemachine.com/intro2.html
- **Screen It!** www.screenit.com/index.html
- **Film.com** www.film.com
- **Mr. Showbiz** www.mrshowbiz.com/reviews/moviereviews/index.html
- **E! Online** www.eonline.com
- **The Motion Picture Industry: Behind-the-Scenes** library.advanced.org/10015
- **Virtual Camera Movement** www.virtualcamera.com
- **The Greatest Films of All Time** www.filmsite.org
- **The Silents Majority** www.mdle.com/ClassicFilms/indexold.htm
- **American Film Institute's OnLine Cinema** www.afionline.org/cinema/archive/lobby.html
- **Ain't It Cool News** www.aint-it-cool-news.com
- **MovieJuice!** www.moviejuice.com/index.html
- **Corona's Coming Attractions** www.corona.bc.ca/films/mainFramed.html
- **Caught in the Machinery** www.usc.edu/dept/annenberg/lovell.html
- **James Berardinelli** movie-reviews.colossus.net
- **Stanley Kauffmann** www.ewnews.com/magazines/tnr
- **Jonathan Rosenbaum** www.chireader.com/movies
- **Edwin Jahiel** www.prairienet.org/ejahiel
- **Damian Cannon** www.sr.bham.ac.uk/~dbc/Movies
- **Drew's Scripts-O-Rama** www.script-o-rama.com

- **Roger Ebert** www.suntimes.com/ebert
- **"Siskel & Ebert"** www.siskel-ebert.com
- **Alex Fung** www.ncf.carleton.ca/~aw220/se.htm
- **Beyond the Valley of the Dolls Tarot Deck** www.leary.com/howard/BtvotdTarat.html
- **Beyond the Valley of the Dolls Homepage** sashimi.wwa.com/~jjf/bvd.html

New, Notable & Fun (Pages 90-91)

- **Electronic Newsstand** www.ewnews.com
- **HouseNet** www.housenet.com
- **USA Hockey** www.usahockey.com
- **Yahoo! Finance** quote.yahoo.com
- **iSKI** www.iski.com
- **The Flick Philosopher** members.aol.com/flickfilos
- **Adam Sandler.com** www.adamsandler.com
- **VH-1** www.vh1.com
- **RealCity NYC** www.realcitynyc.com/index.html
- **Computer Magazine Archive** cma.zdnet.com
- **SelectSurf** www.selectsurf.com
- **Net Shepherd** family.netshepherd.com
- **BabyCenter** www.babycenter.com
- **Consumer Reports** www.consumerreports.org
- **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids** www.tobaccofreekids.org
- **Common Sense Parenting** www.parenting.org
- **National Institute of Mental Health's Anxiety Disorders** www.nimh.nih.gov/anxiety
- **N2inline.com** www.n2inline.com
- **Scrum.com** www.scrum.com
- **SeriousSports.com** www.serioussports.com
- **Chessmaster Live** www.chessmaster.com



Ditto!



"The Best" of Web Site Reviews

Y-Life Site Test: New Cars (Pages 92-93)

- **Car & Driver** www.caranddriver.com
- **CarPoint** carpoint.msn.com
- **Edmund's** www.edmunds.com
- **Car Talk Car Report** www.cartalk.com/Tools/car-report.pl
- **The CarCenter** www.intellichoice.com
- **Autopedia** www.autopedia.com/html/HotLinks_Lemon.html
- **Yahoo! Autos** autos.yahoo.com
- **DealerNet** www.dealernet.com
- **Consumer Reports** www.consumerreports.org

Guest Review: Laugh-Out-Loud Funny Sites (Pages 94-95)

- **OO** www.alcyone.com/oo
- **Forum 2000** www.forum2000.org
- **Jesus of the Week** www.phoenixnewtimes.com/extra/gilstrap/jesus.html
- **It Crawled from the Bins** www.phoenixnewtimes.com/extra/gilstrap/crawl.html

Interactive Crossword Puzzles (Page 97)

- **New York Times Crossword Puzzle** www.nytimes.com/partners/xword/puzzles.html
- **Across Puzzle Gallery** www.litsoft.com/across/gallery.htm

E-Greetings (Page 98)

- **Bytesize Greetings** www.bytesizegreetings.com

Buying Sporting Goods (Page 99)

- **Wal-Mart Online** www.wal-mart.com

Rap & Hip-Hop (Pages 100-101)

- **Vibe** www.vibe.com
- **Davey D's Hip Hop Corner** www.daveyd.com/index.html

Calendars (Page 102)

- **Today's Date and Time** www.panix.com/~wlinden/calendar.shtml

Paying for Your New Home (Page 103)

- **Homebuyer's Fair** www.homefair.com/home

Keeping Up with the New Sites (Page 104)

- **Internet Scout Project** scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/index.html
- **Netsurfer Digest** www.netsurf.com/nsd
- **Yahoo!** www.yahoo.com/new

Writing a Research Paper (Page 105)

- **A+ Research and Writing for High School and College Students** www.ipl.org/teen/aplus
- **Researchpaper.com** www.researchpaper.com

Don't forget to check out our own Web site at www.yil.com. With columns, weekly roundups of the best and worst of the Web, contests, and Surf School (www.surfschool.com), the ultimate Net manual for beginners and veterans alike, we think you'll agree that there is even more to **Yahoo! Internet Life** than this magazine!

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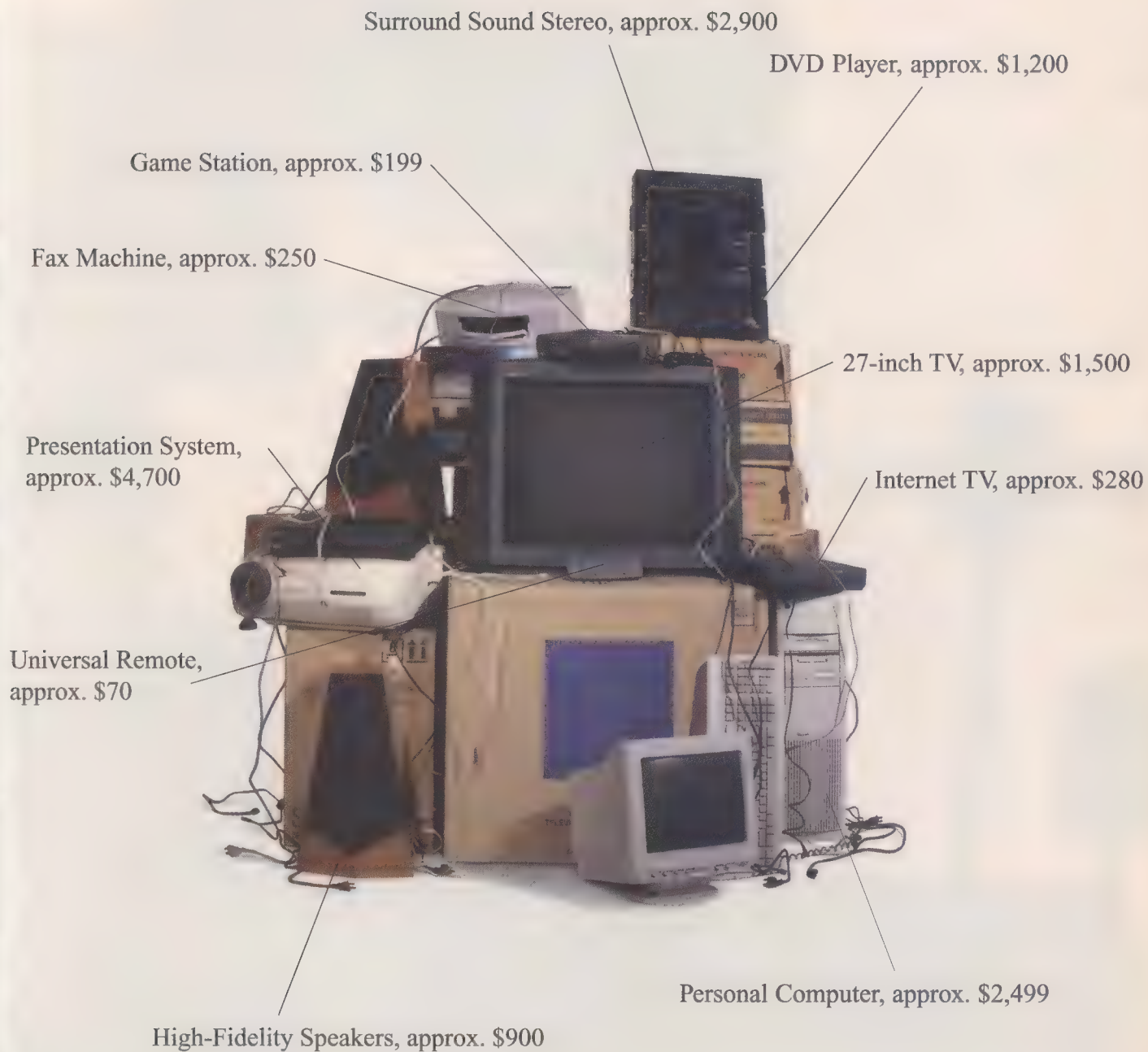


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THE LEONARDOS: DICAPRIO STARS IN TITANIC, DA VINCI VISITS THE NET

FILM

James Cameron's long-awaited *Titanic* is Hollywood's third look at the luxury liner's fateful maiden voyage. But if watching Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet drown in each other's passion isn't enough, www.titanicmovie.com features virtual-reality clips of the *Titanic* ruins, plus scenes from the film's production...Once the sugarplums of December stop dancing in your head, maybe it's time for some spice. *SpiceWorld*, cowritten by "Absolutely Fabulous" scribe Jennifer

Saunders, opens this month. Pepper up a cold winter day at www.spiceworld.com...If the Spice Girls make you scream, you're in like family at www.dimensionfilms.com, home of *Scream 2: The Sequel*. Here's where to catch the real behind-the-screams scoops.

MUSIC

Surf on over to www.sessionsatwest54th.com, where you'll meet up with the likes of Beck, k.d. lang, Patti Smith, and Yo-Yo Ma in the site archives. New sessions in January include Ani DiFranco and Tricky (both appearing on January 4).

ART

So you thought Bill and Melinda forgot to send you a holiday trinket? Check out *Leonardo Lives* at the Seattle Art Museum and on the Web. The Gateses have kindly lent the museum da Vinci's Codex Leicester. The 500-year-old, newly digitized notebook at www.leonardolives.org reveals da Vinci's writings and drawings—important clues to his influence on future artists.

SEARCH RESULTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Stomach pain. 186

Champagne. 13,967

A cup of cheer. 35

See you next year . . . 1,923



CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPH

NET BRIEFS

BY RON BEL BRUNO

C-SERVE SPREADS ITS WEB WINGS

As CompuServe rolls out C from CompuServe, a Web service comprising 500-plus CompuServe forums, databases, and "lifestyle" content areas for businesspeople, some less office-minded CompuServe users may wonder if they're still invited to the party. Not to worry, says Bob Kingston, VP, executive producer: "C is for people already on the Net. It doesn't provide an access package like the online service." Furthermore, "CSi the online service is not going away," says a CompuServe spokeswoman, acknowledging speculation resulting from its recent acquisition by America Online. Stay tuned.

ROSIE MAKES MONDAYS FUN

Few people see Monday morning as a good time for quality interaction. But daytime-TV talk-show goddess Rosie O'Donnell thinks it's a prime time. She's launched Interactive Mondays, a weekly AOL Live chat event during commercial breaks of her live show every Monday. The first "IM" segment pulled in 4,500 chatty fans to talk with Rosie on October 20, 1997, setting an AOL daytime-chat attendance record.

THE ART OF A WEB DEAL

Let Donald Trump have his towers. A luxury mid-Manhattan high-rise just minutes from Fifth Avenue has gone where no Don has gone before—the Web. The 43-floor Mondrian luxury condominium's virtual open house at www.mondrian-ny.com displays units ranging from a "modest" \$154,000 studio to a \$2.5 million, two-bedroom penthouse, with rentals available as well. According to Bryce MacDonald, site manager, the pages quickly paid for themselves when a surfer bought a 400-square-foot, \$175,000 studio "sight unseen" via e-mail.



MOVIN' ON UP—AND ONLINE

COURTESY OF MONDIAN

HOLLYWOOD VISITS THE ALLEY

A housewife from New York's Queens who develops a profitable porno site in her kitchen is just one of the characters in director Jonathan Sarno's *Silicon Alley*. The film, a dramatic portrayal of New York's Net business, is set for release later this year. Though Hollywood has been doing media flicks for years (think *The Front Page*), do you still find the idea of Webmaster-as-protagonist ahead of the curve? Worry not: Sarno promises a minimum of pasty people drinking cappuccino and whining about carpal tunnel syndrome—and that's a good thing.

Visit www.doublescoop.com daily for Daily Double Scoop, our pick of the day's most compelling Net news

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EXTREMELY SPECIALIZED SITES

Scopolamine References in Homicide: Life on the Street
scienceweb.dao.nrc.ca/tv/shorthomicide.html

Sleeping in Airports
www3.sympatico.ca/donna.mcsherry/airports.htm

Most Thrilling Games You Can Play with Your Search Engine
www.maths.unsw.edu.au/~andrew/SEgames.html

Graffiti from Pompeii
www.dla.utexas.edu/depts/classics/gradstud/mayer/Graffiti.html

SNAPSHOTS

How Popular Are You?

Maybe the answer is in your e-mail box. On the Net, most of us get about twice as much e-mail as we send, according to a recent Find/SVP survey.*

Average number of e-mails received by Net users per week **35.8**
 Average number of e-mails sent by Net users per week **17.1**

*Source: Find/SVP American Internet Survey 1997

YAHOO! YENTA

Tell Yenta your Net woes. Write her at Yenta@yil.com.

Dear Yenta,

Last night, we had a holiday party at work, and everyone got pretty soused. Then our intern asked the Webmaster out on a date. She replied, "Not for all the bandwidth in the world." Everyone laughed except me. What did I miss?

—Baffled in Berkeley

Dear Baffled,

Bandwidth, as you know, is the magnitude of your Net connection—the size of the pipe. More bandwidth means faster viewing and downloading—Webhead nirvana. Ergo, your quick-witted, tactless coworker really meant, "I'd rather pass on paradise than join you at Starbuck's for a latte." No one ever said the Net was fair.

Y-Life Wants Your E-Mail!

Yes, that's right, we want to read your mail—and print the best stuff here. Bloopers, missends, gags—we want the best bites or stories about them. (Please keep them short and non-obscene—we're a family magazine, you know.) Send 'em to click@zd.com.

Submissions become the property of Yahoo! Internet Life and may be edited for clarity.

LABORS OF LOVE

BY JERRY YANG & DAVID FILO

Steer on Over to Baker Street

Each month, Yahoo!'s creators select a site built with true passion

221B Baker Street

www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/andrew.cmu.edu/usr18/mset/www/holmes.html

SURE, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE of adoring fan sites paying homage to writers, actors, and authors, but few such sites offer any real value to their fellow admirers. Not so at Michael Sherman's 221B Baker Street, his ode to Sherlock Holmes, the world's most famous detective. Most notable here is the inclusion of 48 full-text stories now out of copyright and in the public domain—what a bargain. Add to this some fast-loading vintage art and a searchable database (wouldn't Holmes have loved that), and you've got a site that goes well beyond the "elementary," dear reader.



All in a Day's Spam

Spam just isn't good for you. But has anyone read the ingredients of a day's serving? Y-Life collected a weekend's worth of America Online junk missives from a single screen name and put it through rigorous analysis:

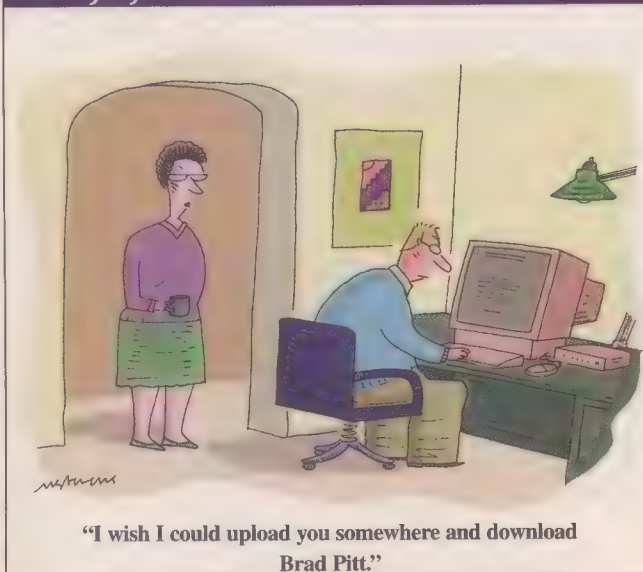
Total number of spams in a 48-hour period **21**
 Total download time at 28.8Kbps **3:29***
 Total number of printed pages (as formatted) **78**

Ingredients

Get-rich-quick schemes (includes pyramid schemes and home-equity loans) **10**
 Computer hardware/software **4**
 Live sex chats (you join in) **2**
 Live sex (you shut up and listen/watch) **2**
 "Just the XXX pictures, please, make 'em hot and steamy!" . . . **2**
 "Become an author through self-publishing!" **1**

*minutes/seconds

site gag



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THE PETA WATCH SHOOTOUT



Can lingerie raise a starlet's "Web Quotient"? Of the eight actresses adorning *Details'* October 1997 cover, Peta, Y-Life's favorite vixen/martial-arts queen, gets about a C+ in her first buzz-of-the-Web tourney.* We love her nonetheless, and you should, too.



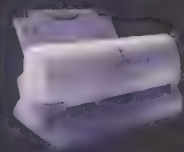
*number of listings on AltaVista at press time

Yasmine Bleeth 16,031	Peta Wilson 530
Alyssa Milano 5,183	Jeri Ryan 409
Carmen Electra 1,938	Garcelle Beauvais 98
Melissa Joan Hart 1,383	Jamie Luner 81



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YOUR SITES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HERE COME THE ONLINE NEIGHBORHOODS

Echo Reverberates across the Net

THE PIONEERING PEOPLE AND SETTLEMENTS of the online world have, for the most part, proved to be as ephemeral as the latest Washington, D.C., scandal. But Echo ("East Coast Hang Out"), one of the Net's elder and most literate communities, is with us and thriving.

"Echoids," as Echo members call themselves, engage in spirited banter via a threaded, text-only environment constituted of more than 60 conferences. (Echo sports an extensive Web site comprised of member home pages and background, but discussions remain text-based.) Ruminations about D.W. Griffith's influence on film share equal billing with, say, a rant on how the filming of a major motion picture in one member's neighborhood is causing sleepless nights. Whatever the subjects at hand, these ever-so-slightly time-delayed conversations contrast sharply with the fragmented, banal, and sometimes offensive chatter elsewhere on the Net—and with good reason: On Echo, people get to know one another.



"From the start, I wanted it to be a social space where people would be able to tell the stories of their lives," says founder Stacy Horn, who booted up Echo in 1990 from her apartment in New York's Greenwich Village. With that objective in mind, Horn and her staff warmly invite new Echoids to introduce themselves at length. In many cases, this openness extends off-line. A couple of months ago, for instance, Echo member Brett discussed the plight of his sister, in distress and leaving a troubled marriage. Horn and other Echo members quickly rallied, holding a fund-raiser for their friend in need.

Come to Echo expecting lots of brainpower but minimal glitz. Its \$19.95 monthly subscription rate (for dial-up access; \$15 for telnet-only; see Web site for details on these and other subscription plans) buys your ticket to serious discussions—provided you mind your manners and use your real name. www.echonyc.com

SEARCHING FOR A PAST LIFE? ASK DONNA

What did you do in your previous life? Donna Ciaciarella's Past Life Readings and Shamanic Journeys will help you explore your spiritual past. Read letters from people whose previous incarnations she has helped discover, and view her fascinat-



ing surrealistic paintings. Too bad the Web wasn't a bit older—it would have been great to search for your old personal pages. www.mindspring.com/~donacia/index.html

CALLING ALL MAUREEN O'HARA FANS

June Parker Beck has lived the ultimate movie fan's dream: First, she created an intense Web-based biography and filmography of actress Maureen O'Hara, complete with a quiz and a discussion board. Then she made a call and was staring into "those eyes—oh my goodness those eyes!" a few hours later. "There was an electricity in her presence." Luckily for us, Beck shares her entire adventure. www.jetcity.com/~beck/maureen.html

—Tom Watson

GAMES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Y-LIFE'S MULTIPLAYER UPDATE

Admit it. Playing even the most of-the-moment game with just the pleasure of your own company can get pretty lame. So check out our update of new and known titles now touting the multiplayer edge.

Don't Miss

NetStorm. Hate getting suddenly bumped off-line during the thick of competition? No fear here—this real-time strategy game picks up where you left off once you log back on. Up to eight players can do battle within the same game, with thousands of eager soldiers waiting in the wings to draw from when casualties occur. *Activision; \$39.95; PC only* www.activision.com/games/strategy/netstorm/index.shtml

Age of Empires. Welcome to World History 101...on your own terms. Here you can reenact or rewrite the past as part of an ancient world power or as a member of your own self-styled nation. Win by conquering your opponents or by building your empire—wait a minute, that sounds familiar, eh? *Microsoft; \$54.95; PC only* www.microsoft.com/games/empires

Worth Noting

Ultima Online. This visually striking role-playing fantasy carries undeniable appeal to traditional



Dungeons & Dragons fans, and the media's already reporting their fervor. The game also garners kudos from us for novel customization features, such as the multiracial character option. But be advised: Ultima lacks a single-player option, so you need to budget in an additional \$120 per year (about \$10 per month) to join others in the Ultima frenzy. *Origin; \$64 plus \$9.95 per month online subscription fee (required); PC only* www.ultimaonline.com

Postal. As if a homicidal maniac isn't enough of a threat, Postal gives him 16 ways to inflict sociopathic mayhem on bystanders. Warning: Ultraviolent. *Running With Scissors; Ripcord Games; \$54.95; PC/Mac* www.gopostal.com




Take Friday off.

***This wheel helps you work so quickly
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With the Microsoft® IntelliMouse®, you can roll through everyday tasks with a touch of your finger. Use the rubber wheel to AutoScroll through documents and Web pages faster. Use Data Zoom to navigate through Web hot links or through the Windows® 95 operating system. Whether you're in Office 97 or any other IntelliMouse compatible program, you'll be surprised by how fast you can work. So while we can't guarantee you'll get Friday off, we can promise you a better way to work.

And now, the IntelliMouse wheel is available on an ergonomically-designed trackball.



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Where do you want to go today? www.microsoft.com/intellimouse

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Y-Life's barometer of people and places spinning the Web

the charts

THE 18-34 CREW

The most popular sites among U.S. Web surfers ages 18 to 34, according to Web-measurement company RelevantKnowledge.

RELEVANTKNOWLEDGE

- 1 Yahoo!
- 2 Netscape
- 3 Microsoft
- 4 AOL.com
- 5 Excite/WebCrawler
- 6 Infoseek
- 7 GeoCities
- 8 MSN
- 9 Lycos
- 10 CNET

RelevantKnowledge (www.relevantknowledge.com) measures the Web site preferences of 7,000 business, residential, and academic surfers.

U.S. NET USERS

63,000,000

U.S. WEB USERS

48,000,000

...according to a September 1997 InternetTask poll, an ongoing study from Ziff-Davis, in conjunction with Roper Starch

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular public sites on the Web, period, through the lens of Web 21. Placement shifts from last month are noted where applicable.

100HOT

- 1 Netscape
- 2 Yahoo!, et al.
- 3 Microsoft
- 4 Pathfinder, et al. +1
- 5 Excite, et al. +1
- 6 AltaVista (Digital) -2
- 7 Starwave, et al. +2
- 8 CNET, et al. +3
- 9 Mirabilis (ICQ Internet Chat) NEW
- 10 Sony, et al.
- 11 Infoseek -3
- 12 HotWired/HotBot +1
- 13 GeoCities BACK!
- 14 AltaVista Technology -2
- 15 RealNetworks (Audio/Video) -1

Web 21 (www.web21.com) measures the page views of 100,000 surfers at strategic residential and commercial Internet hubs. Read the full list at www.100hot.com. Figures reflect October standings.

HOUSE HITS

The Top 15 news/information/entertainment sites visited by home PCs, according to Media Metrix. Shifts from last month are noted where applicable.

MEDIA METRIX

- 1 ZDNet
- 2 Pathfinder
- 3 Disney Online
- 4 MSNBC +6
- 5 CNN +6
- 6 The Weather Channel -2
- 7 CBS SportsLine
- 8 USA Today +1
- 9 CNET -1
- 10 ESPN SportsZone -5
- 11 Warner Bros. Online +1
- 12 PC World Online +1
- 13 ABC News +2
- 14 Sony -8
- 15 NFL.com NEW

Media Metrix (www.npd.com/pemeter.htm) measures Web sites via software installed in 10,000 households using Windows-based PCs. Figures reflect September rankings, the latest statistics available at press time.

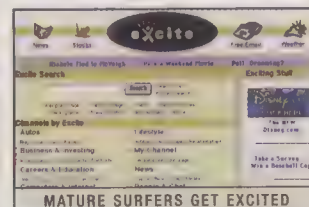
THE OVER-50 CROWD

The most popular sites among U.S. Web surfers over age 50, according to Web-measurement company RelevantKnowledge.

RELEVANTKNOWLEDGE

- 1 Yahoo!
- 2 Netscape
- 3 Excite/WebCrawler
- 4 Microsoft
- 5 AOL.com
- 6 MSN
- 7 Lycos
- 8 Infoseek
- 9 AltaVista (Digital)
- 10 CNN

RelevantKnowledge (www.relevantknowledge.com) measures the Web site preferences of 7,000 business, residential, and academic surfers.



TOP SPORTING EVENTS

The 10 most popular ESPN SportsZone one-day events of the month (including chats, news postings, and Webcasts).

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1 | Gamecast World Series Game 7 | 10/26/97 |
| 2 | Gamecast American League Championship Series Game 6 | 10/14/97 |
| 3 | Gamecasts four divisional league-playoff games | 10/1/97 |
| 4 | Fantasy Basketball debut | 10/2/97 |
| 5 | NBA LiveAudio Webcast season debut | 10/31/97 |
| 6 | NFL Interactive Depth Charts debut | 10/15/97 |
| 7 | Dean Smith (UNC basketball coach) retirement coverage | 10/9/97 |
| 8 | Outside the Lines series debut | 10/30/97 |
| 9 | Reggie Jackson chat session | 10/29/97 |
| 10 | Barry's Breakdown; Barry Melrose, hockey pundit; series debut | 10/22/97 |

Rankings represent October ESPN SportsZone site-traffic reports.

TOP DESTINATIONS

The destinations Expedia.com users booked most frequently.

- 1 New York
- 2 Chicago
- 3 Atlanta
- 4 Denver
- 5 San Francisco
- 6 Los Angeles
- 7 Dallas
- 8 Orlando
- 9 Washington, D.C.
- 10 Boston

Rankings represent October bookings.

TOP NEWSGROUPS

The top newsgroups of the month on Usenet, according to Deja News (excluding alt.sex groups).

Alt (Alternative)
alt.video.dvd
alt.showbiz.gossip
alt.home-theater.misc

Rec (Recreation)
rec.audio.opinion
rec.audio.marketplace
rec.woodworking

Comp (Computer)
comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware.video
comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware.chips
comp.sys.ibm.pc.games.strategic

Rankings represent total number of impressions at Deja News (www.dejanews.com) in October.

BOOKS

AMAZON.COM

- 1 **How the Mind Works**
Steven Pinker
- 2 **A Lesson Before Dying**
Ernest J. Gaines
- 3 **Release 2.0: A Design for Living in the Digital Age**
Esther Dyson
- 4 **Cold Mountain**
Charles Frazier
- 5 **The God of Small Things**
Arundhati Roy
- 6 **Apple: The Inside Story of Intrigue, Egomaniacs and Business Blunders**
Jim Carlton



- 7 **The Visual Display of Quantitative Information**
Edward R. Tufte
- 8 **Underworld**
Don Delillo
- 9 **Into Thin Air**
Jon Krakauer
- 10 **Memoirs of a Geisha: A Novel**
Arthur Golden

Courtesy of Amazon.com (www.amazon.com)
Top 100 sales for the week ending 10/29/97.

CDs

TOWER RECORDS



Wait, what year is it? With Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, and Jim Morrison on the Web chart together, it's a valid question. Surfers' reverence for the late John Denver is also evident in this month's Web picks.

WEB SALES

- 1 **Music for TV Dinners**
Various Artists
- 2 **The Doors Box Set** The Doors
- 3 **The Best of John Denver Live**
John Denver
- 4 **Candle in the Wind 1997**
(Single) Elton John
- 5 **Time Out of Mind** Bob Dylan
- 6 **One of the Fortunate Few**
Delbert McClinton
- 7 **You Light Up My Life**
LeAnn Rimes
- 8 **The Book of Secrets**
Loreena McKennitt
- 9 **Bridges to Babylon**
The Rolling Stones
- 10 **Songbook: A Collection of Hits**
Trisha Yearwood

RETAIL SALES

- 1 **The Velvet Rope** Janet Jackson
- 2 **Bridges to Babylon**
The Rolling Stones
- 3 **Tubthumper** Chumbawamba
- 4 **Portishead** Portishead
- 5 **Time Out of Mind** Bob Dylan
- 6 **Butterfly** Mariah Carey
- 7 **The Dance** Fleetwood Mac
- 8 **Soul Food** Original Soundtrack
- 9 **Evolution** Boyz II Men
- 10 **EO Mai Keali'i** Reichel

Both lists represent the week ending 10/28/97.

Just 2¹/₂ years
after getting into the music biz,
we hit #1.

Hell, even the Beatles took
longer than that.

Welcome to music's latest overnight success: CDnow, the on-line music store.

When we started out, we were just twins in a basement who loved music and computers. Today, we sell more music on-line than anyone. And we have an enormous selection of every kind of music—over 250,000 items in stock. Plus, we'll deliver your order straight to your door. You can even get it overnight. What could be easier?

So why not log on at cdnow.com and check out CDnow. It's the next big thing. And it's already here.

CDNOW

cdnow.com

The World's Largest Music Store.

Yahoo!InternetLIVE

By Reuben Maness

MONDAYS

ESPN Trivia*

10 p.m. - 11 p.m. Eastern

Test your sports knowledge with ESPN SportsZone's live trivia game twice a week.

ESPN.SportsZone.com/editors/zoned/trivia/tuestriv2.html

*This show also appears on Thursday nights at the same time.

TUESDAYS

High Strangeness

10 p.m. - 11 p.m. Eastern

Experts on UFOs, paranormal phenomena, and alternative science discuss their findings.

www.omnimag.com/talk



WellQuest on Kaleidoscope

3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Central

Practical, down-to-earth advice on spirituality, nutrition, exercise, and health care options.

Video broadcast on AudioNet
www.ktv-i.com/tv/wq_series.cfm

The Doctor's Medical Bag

5 p.m. Pacific

Dr. John Langdon tackles your pressing questions on heart attacks, surgery, and more.

www.yourhealth.com

Mr. C on Kiss FM London

1 a.m. - 4 a.m. London time

London DJ spins the latest breaks live.
www.the-end.co.uk/live/live.htm

WEDNESDAYS

Barefeet Sock Puppet Theater

Noon Eastern

Adventures, sing-alongs, and too much fun.

pseudo.com/netcast/shows/barefeet/index.html

Minx Weekly Chat

6 p.m. Eastern

Are you an admirer of Ms. Thing? Do you need something other than the usual mixed messages from women's mags? Then this might be just the weekly show for which you and your fellow admirers have been looking.

pseudo.com/netcast/shows/minx/index.html

THURSDAYS

world.hire

5 p.m. Eastern

Job seekers: world.hire features weekly guests and recruitment help.

www.audionet.com/worldhirelive

Beta Lounge

8 p.m. - Midnight Eastern

Live jungle and trip-hop DJ sets.

www.ultronic.com

FRIDAYS

Seeing Ear Theatre

Noon Eastern

A new classic from the golden age of radio plays every week.

www.scifi.com/pulp/set/set_classics.html

Aviation Weekly

7 p.m. Central

For pilots, aero-philiacs and the would-be be-winged.

www.audionet.com/shows/aviationweekly

The Janice Malone Show

7 p.m. Central

Digging the dirt with celebrities.

www.audionet.com/shows/malone



SATURDAYS

Acoustic Café

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Eastern

Singer-songwriters perform and chat, sans electricity.

www.acafe.com

A Prairie Home Companion

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern

Live audio stream of humorist and author Garrison Keillor's lovable weekly National Public Radio show.

phc.mpr.org

Soulful Sounds Saturdays

6 p.m. Pacific

An entertaining weekly hip-hop, soul, and reggae show.

www.radio.dowco.com/soulful/live.html

SUNDAYS

Net Talk

10 p.m. Central

About the Net and how to use it.

www.radio.audionet.com/radio/talk/klit/weekend/nettalk.htm

DAILY & OTHER

Mind, Body & Computing

An hourly show on ergonomics and relaxation you can enjoy from in front of your computer.

www.grit.net/health.html

SonicNet Cybercasts

This is your guide to a steady schedule of live concerts from groups such as Moby, Chemical Brothers, and Kula Shaker. Tune in often to find out who's playing and when.

www.sonicnet.com

Improv Live

9 p.m. Pacific

(Tues. through Sat.)

This show is broadcast from the same stage that gave Robin Williams his start.

www.aentv.com/home/comedy/live.htm

Dates subject to change (this is the Web!). Please send your event-listings info (with a minimum of six weeks' notice) to y-live@zd.com.

SPECIALS OF THE MONTH

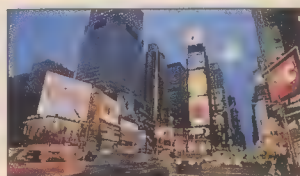
New Year's Online

The champagne. The ballroom dancing. The countdown. The confetti. The kissing. The "Auld Lang Syne." New Year's Eve is without a doubt an event, and if New Year's Eve 1998 is anything like New Year's Eve 1997, there will be plenty of coverage online.

Look for Yahoo! to be there in full force. Last year it had four still cameras taking pictures around Times Square the entire week before New Year's Eve, a gigantic message board, and a live audio and video satellite feed of the ball dropping. Not bad. Last year's event: www.yahoo.com/promotions/newyears

Times Square maintains its own site, sponsored by the Business Improvement District (BID). It's no surprise that New Year's Eve is the BID's biggest event. Check its "Events" section as New Year's Eve draws closer for details.

www.times-square.org/index2.html



First Night New York

www.firstnightnyc.com

The counter is already ticking away at one of the New Year's Eve sites:

First Night New York is a family-oriented project that has included waltzing in Central Park and jazz at the public library. But the organization's site includes a map of the U.S. and listings of other New Year's events around the country.

Need to express your New Year's resolutions to the public? Type 'em in at the **Happy New Year!** site.

www.aristotle.net/newyears/newyears.htm

San Francisco New Year's Eve

www.mediadome.com/Webisodes/Sfnyc/Aboutsfnye/index.html

Mediadome hosts a huge online party from San Francisco.

3000 Mutual Funds. One with your name on it. None with ours.

The company that revolutionized buying stocks online is now doing the same for mutual funds. Introducing E*TRADE's Mutual Fund Center, with over 3000 funds from many of the industry's top families.

It's not just about choice. It's about the right choice.

Using technology, E*TRADE gives you the tools to confidently select the right funds for you. Like our mutual fund screener, that helps you identify the ones that fit your long- and short-term objectives.

What's more, we don't own our own funds. So we can be completely unbiased – encouraging you to buy what's best for you, not what's best for us.

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www.etrade.com

Call 1-800-ETRADE-1

Invest a minute and compare:

	E*TRADE	e.Schwab	Schwab	Fidelity
Funds with no loads/ no transaction fees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transaction fee on applicable funds (based on \$15,000 purchase)	\$0	\$84.	\$105.	\$28.95 Minimum
Review fund prospectuses online	Yes	Limited	Limited	Limited
Research & Morningstar ratings online	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customer service	Free	Fees may apply	Free	Free

Some firms may offer discounts and services not available at E*TRADE. Firms offering no transaction fee funds receive remuneration from participating mutual fund companies. Fund prospectuses contain more complete information to read carefully before investing. Comparative rates are based on a 10/8/97 phone survey. No connect fees for Web access. © 1997 E*TRADE Securities, Inc. Member NASD, SIPC. MYAH098

E*TRADE

Someday, we'll all invest this way.

YIPPEE!



IN REVERENCE OF JUDYISM

aentv.com/home/judy/judymain.htm

"If you want to see your favorite film star promoting his favorite project," says Judy Tenuta, "go somewhere else!" This irreverent attitude is making surfers LOL ("Laugh Out Loud") during the nightly Judy Tenuta Show on the Alternative Entertainment Network. Not everyone appreciates the charm of the "multi-media Bondage Goddess," but we're not talking Nielsens here, so who cares?

We're basking in her shtick and novel guest lineup, including Rose Marie, Dick Martin, and Casey Kasem.



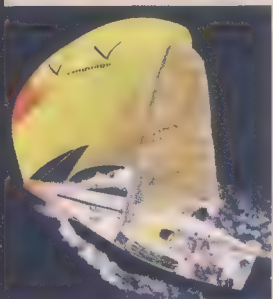
THE LOWDOWN ON HIV AND AIDS

hivinsite.ucsf.edu

Few people know it all about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That's why HIV InSite, the online arm of the University of California, San Francisco AIDS Research Institute, has come to the Web, answering the hard questions about this public-health crisis. State-by-state news updates and statistics deliver the cut-and-dried facts of the virus's wrath, with no shortage of political and cultural considerations as well. Care to hear audio clips of a debate about the ethics of testing AZT, the widely used drug for AIDS symptoms, in Third World countries? This is the place. Or how about an interview with noted gay author Edmund White? A big Yippee! to everyone involved for a job well done.

AROUND THE WORLD...IN A WEB OF WAYS

www.whitbread.org/main.html



MIKE HEVITIA/SPORT

Gonzo millionaires with mucho disposable income (and nearly nine months of free time) are competing now in the Whitbread Round the World Race. Track the course of the 32,000-mile event at this CompuServe-sponsored site, where great-looking maps and digital photos update the action throughout the day, as chat rooms and bulletin boards (for CompuServe subscribers only) host would-be seafarers. It's all very exciting for anyone with sea legs.

YA-HOOEY!



RECYCLE YOUR ALUMINUM NOW

sunsite.unc.edu/lou/ball

www.webcom.com/sc/aluminum.html

Web sites paying homage to aluminum-foil balls? Two such wastes of code litter the Web now, though undoubtedly some bored, me-too kind of people in need of attention from strangers will increase the population by spring thaw. If you nailed us up against the wall to choose the better of the two, we'd say The Ball is more attractive. It's perfectly round and smooth and made entirely of candy wrappers. It comes with its own mail address, FAQs, and history. The (even) more amateurish Giant Aluminum Ball scores points for including sound clips of chants with which you can worship it. OK, guys, are you happy? You got our attention, but never again—really.

WHY CARRIE FISHER HATES LIGHTNING

www.d-n-a.net/users/dnetwrBs/Leia/leia.htm

And not a bit of rust on her. Princess Leia's Metal Bikini, hailing from across the pond, sounds more like a vintage '70s punk band than a tribute to one woman's platinum-packaged pulchritude. Jack, your host, worries not about people's thoughts on the topic: "What's that? You have a problem with the metal bikini? Don't talk to me. Talk to George Lucas." You won't find anything here but 33 photos of Fisher, aka Her Royal Highness, 11 of which feature said metallic garment.



FRANK CONNOR

DON'T TOUCH THAT SEAT-BACK POCKET

rampages.onramp.net/~stevebo/airsick.html

Of all the airsickness-bag collections on the Web (and believe us, we've seen 'em all), the Airsickness Bag Museum gets the prize for the most complete waste of bandwidth. Curator Steven J. Slick-picklehamburger displays scores of these wax-lined wonders from Aer Lingus, Virgin, and a multitude of carriers in between, including the little-known Vomit Comet (the KC-135 plane that trains astronauts for weightlessness). Still not enough for you? At the bottom of the page, Steve links to an astonishing 28 other people who share this sobering hobby. It'll make you sick—and these guys wouldn't want it any other way.

Visit www.yippeeyahooey.com each Monday for new Yippee! Ya-Hooey! picks

It's amazing what you can catch with a bigger Net.

Get the big picture from the company that perfected it.

When cruising the "Net" on a ViewSonic G810 21" (20.0" viewable) monitor, you won't believe the incredible sights you can log onto. What's more, its flat square screen, 0.25mm ultra fine dot pitch and an optimum resolution of 1,024 x 768 at

109Hz will produce graphics that'll knock your socks off. All at a price that's perfect for people who work at home with their shoes off.

Whether you are crunching numbers on a spreadsheet or crunching aliens on a CD-ROM, a SuperContrast™ screen intensifies every color, while the ARAG® anti-reflection coating looks out for your eyes.

Plug & Play and then hold on.

Along with being easier to watch, the G810 is easier to use.

Windows® 95 Plug & Play™ compatibility makes it a snap to install.

And OnView® controls offer an on-screen menu for quick screen adjustments.

We have more ways to give you the space to explore cyberspace.

Check out the incredible visual clarity on the EA771, 17" (16.0" viewable) multi-media monitor. With a microphone and built-in high fidelity stereo speakers, it's perfect for bringing the web to life. Like the G810, it's backed by a limited 3-year warranty and ViewSonic's unique 48-hour Express Exchange™ service option.

For a more information, call (800) 888-8583 and ask for agent 81056. We invite you to visit our website at www.viewsonic.com. You'll discover even more reasons why the dynamic ViewSonic monitors are the big ones you don't want to let get away.

	G810	EA771
CRT Size (viewable)	21" (20.0")	17" (16.0")
Dot Pitch	.25mm	.27mm
Horizontal Frequency	30-89kHz	30-70kHz
Maximum Resolution	1,600 x 1,280	1,280 x 1,024
Optimum Resolution	1,280 x 1,024	1,024 x 768
Refresh Rate	83Hz	87Hz
Macintosh® Compatible	Yes*	Yes*
Windows® 95 Plug & Play™	Yes	Yes
On-Screen Control	Yes	Yes
Limited 3 Year Warranty	Parts, Labor, CRT	Parts, Labor, CRT

* Free Macintosh adapter available upon request



ViewSonic G810
January 1997



ViewSonic G810
January 1997

Technology Tip: A Sales Pitch vs. The Dot Pitch

The dot pitch specification is critical to a monitor's quality. Dot pitch is the diagonal distance between two phosphors of the same color. The smaller the dot pitch, the clearer and crisper the image. Beware of manufacturers that have begun listing horizontal pitch. This is the horizontal distance between two like phosphors—naturally less than diagonal. Don't be confused by what is essentially a Sales Pitch. Ask your dealer for the "true" dot pitch.

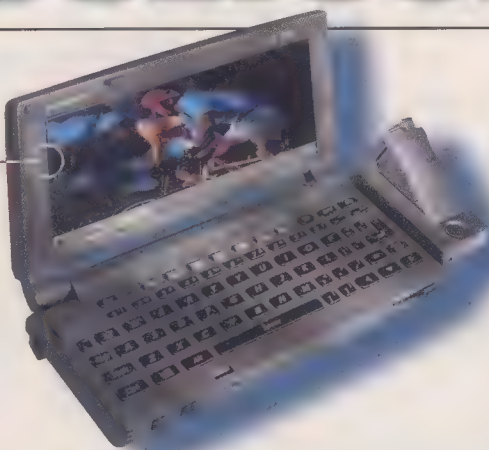


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COOLTOOLS

MY PC, MY CAMERA SHARP MOBILON

Sharp's latest gizmo is a Web browser *and* a camera. First browse the Web in color via the 15-ounce Mobilon's 33.6Kbps Net connection. When even this convenience starts to bore you, plug in the optional camera card and watch the most jaded of gizmo geeks at the coffee bar ogle your PC/camera with envy. Say "later" to tangling with clunky cables and "hello" to sending photos on the fly.



Sharp Mobilon, \$600
(optional digital camera, \$400;
docking station kit, \$150; recharge-
able battery pack, \$60) • Sharp
Electronics Corp. • 800-237-4277
www.sharp-usa.com

FREEZE-FRAME ADVANTAGE

CANON OPTURA MINI DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER

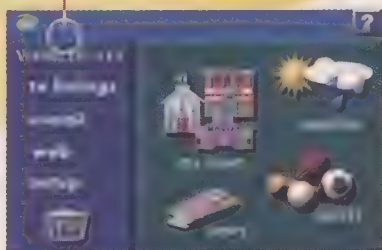
Video buffs eager to e-mail or post stills from their masterworks to the Web no longer have to carry two cameras. The lightweight Canon Optura records video on a minicassette and connects to your TV for conventional large-screen previewing. Once you've zeroed in on the best frames to clip, upload them to your PC with Canon's optional tape-to-PC conversion kit (\$700).

Canon Optura Mini Digital
Video Camcorder, \$2,700 •
Canon U.S.A. Inc. •
800-652-2666
www.canondv.com



JACK OUT OF THE BOX WORLDGATE SERVICE

Subscribe to the Net as you do to those premium cable channels. Internet Basic WorldGate Service lets you do just that, as it pumps the Net into your cable box. You don't have to buy another device—just push a button on the remote control and you're Web surfing at near-ISDN speed (up to 100Kbps). It may not be in your region just yet, but stay tuned, it's coming.



WorldGate Communications Inc.
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per month) • Call local cable
provider for availability
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and say bye-bye to your friends.



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AT&T WorldNet Service software.

And get online for a chance to win in our "Travel the World" Sweepstakes.

TO RUN AT&T WORLDNET SERVICE ON YOUR MACINTOSH, YOU WILL NEED: 1) A 486SX processor or faster, 2) Microsoft Windows® 3.1x, Windows® for Workgroups 3.11, or Windows® 95. 3) 8MB RAM and 15-20MB of available hard disk space, depending on platform (some additional temporary space may be required during installation). 4) A modem connected to a phone line running at 14.4 kilobits per second or faster, but not to a Local Area Network (LAN) or ISDN line.

TO RUN AT&T WORLDNET SERVICE ON YOUR MACINTOSH, YOU WILL NEED: 1) Macintosh® running System 7.1 or higher or Power Macintosh® running System 7.5.3 Rev 2 or higher. 2) Apple Open Transport 1.1+ (if using Open Transport). 3) 8MB RAM (or more for better performance) with Virtual Memory turned on, 13-20MB of available hard disk space, depending on platform. 4) A modem connected to a phone line running at 14.4 kilobits per second or faster, but not to a Local Area Network (LAN) or ISDN line.

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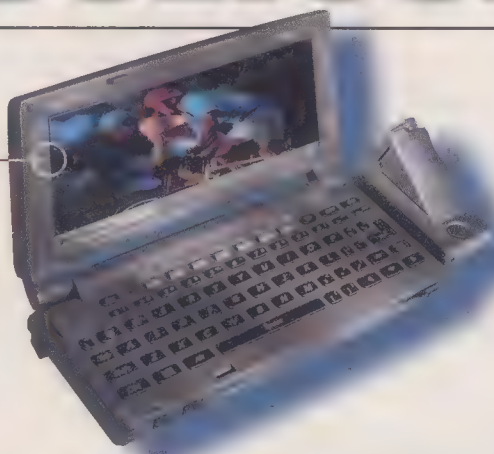
1/28/98

COOLTOOLS

MY PC, MY CAMERA

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CANON OPTURA MINI DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER

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Canon Optura Mini Digital
Video Camcorder, \$2,700 •
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JACK OUT THE BOX

WORLDGATE SERVICE

Subscribe to the Net as those premium cable Internet Basic WorldGate lets you do just that, as the Net into your cable don't have to buy another just push a button on the control and you're Web near-ISDN speed (up to 10Mbps). It may not be in your budget yet, but stay tuned, it's coming.



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You could go to Africa or Japan. Win a trip around the world. Or any of numerous other prizes. To enter, just visit the website below and follow the prompts. If you don't have AT&T WorldNet Service, call toll-free for free software at 1 800 WORLDNET, ext. 126, return the attached card, or download it from our website. You'll get your first month on the Internet free*—and fast, reliable Internet access. So give it a go.

To get your free* month, download at
www.worldnet.unicom.net/yahoo

*Telephone access and other charges and taxes may apply. Other terms and conditions apply. ©1997 AT&T. All Rights Reserved. See your local newspaper's Sunday's article 1/28/98. Void where prohibited. For official rules and alternate entry, write to AT&T WorldNet Rules, P.O. Box 7084, Melville, NY 11761-0084.

COOLTOOLS

UPLOADED MEMORIES

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"Did you send the pictures yet, dear?" How many times have you heard this refrain after playing shutterbug during the weekend back home? Kodak eases your burden by processing your film and posting the prints on a Web site. When you pick up your prints at participating stores, you get a URL and a password to share with the folks or anyone else eager to see your works.

Kodak Picture Network (rates start at \$5 per month) • Eastman Kodak Co. • 800-235-6325
www.kodakpicturenetwork.com



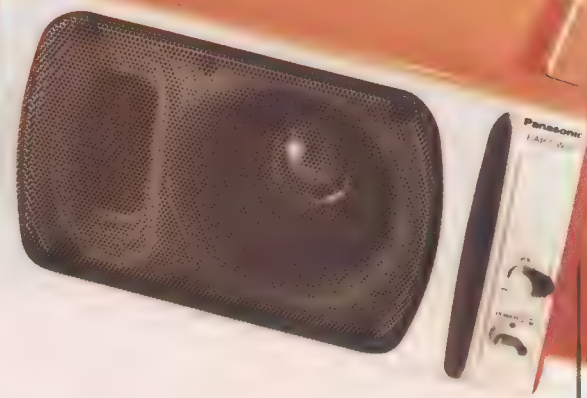
CATCH THE BOOM, BABY

PANASONIC MULTIMEDIA SPEAKER SYSTEM

If you've grown addicted to Webcasted concerts but are still using those dime-store, starter-kit speakers, you're cheating yourself out of some serious—and inexpensive—advances in sound quality. Panasonic's Multimedia duo takes up little room on the desktop while a booming subwoofer checks in under the desk, pounding out the bass. Now go ahead and boot up the new VH-1 page in proper audio style.



Panasonic Multimedia Speaker System, \$100 • Panasonic • 800-742-8086
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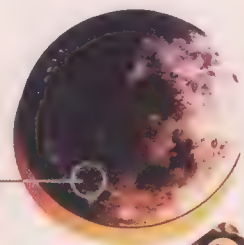


SPRUCE UP YOUR PAD

MANTICORE MOUSE PADS

Mouse pads needn't be as boring as the old Christmas presents hanging on your tie rack. So how about a Moon mouse pad that glows in the dark? Or maybe one doubling as a Ouija board? Manticore's novelty mouse pads tout durable and wipeable hard surfaces that you can clean when you spill Pepsi all over the desk.

Novelty mouse pads, \$12 and up • Manticore Products Inc. • 800-782-2645
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Microsoft

Where do you want to play?

LOSER

Most people
enjoy the
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of their
best friends.

- David Mamet

Compete head-to-head. Surrender nothing.

The Microsoft SideWinder game pad brings the action of video game play to the PC. Now, as many as four of you can play Windows 95-based games by daisy-chaining these pads together without losing any functionality. Only SideWinder game pads do this.

Map complicated, hard-to-remember multi-button moves to a single button for execution of lethal maneuvers. And it's a perfect fit for hands of all sizes, letting you keep a solid grip and making it easier to use any of the buttons or triggers. So, the more SideWinder game pads you own, the more friends you can take advantage of.



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EZ user

Simple Answers for Smart People

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME



"Simply restart your browser if it performs an illegal operation."

DEAR SURF GURU



Got a question?
E-mail surfguru@zd.com.

GROOVE TUBE MEETS THE NET

Q. I keep hearing about WebTV. Is it worth subscribing to?

A. If you're looking for simplicity or if you don't have a computer that can access the Net, then yes. In case you haven't heard, WebTV is a device that allows you to view the Net through your television set (at 56Kbps). You can even surf the Net and watch TV at the same time. But be warned: WebTV does not have the flexibility of a computer, as your TV lacks storage space (you can print documents and store e-mail on a WebTV server, but you can't use all plug-ins or helper applications, nor can you cache Web pages).

CRASHING BROWSERS

Q. Sometimes when I surf, I receive the message, "This program has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down." What's going on?

A. Don't panic. This happens to everyone from time to time. Simply put, your computer has become confused. Chances are, you just need to restart your browser. (If the problem persists, you should reinstall the browser.)

NET LINGO

Server

A "host" computer that is set up to share its files and resources (such as Web pages) with other computers via a network connection.

QUICK COURSE

CHOOSING A SERVICE PROVIDER



INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Think of ISPs as friendly ports of call from which to launch your Net expeditions. Which provider is right for you? Here's an overview.

COMMERCIAL PROVIDERS (America Online, Microsoft Network, Prodigy)

Commercial providers are national providers that give you both Internet connectivity and exclusive online content.

You should use a commercial provider if:

YOU'RE NEW TO COMPUTERS. Rely on commercial providers for user-friendly software to guide you through the process of getting connected.

YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN. Commercial providers give you extra help in finding kid-friendly content online by organizing Web guides for younger users.

YOU WANT JUST E-MAIL, HEADLINES, AND STOCK QUOTES. Surfing the Web can be slow through a commercial provider—fortunately, these services have the latest news integrated with their content areas, so you won't even need to hit the Web.

YOU WANT IMMEDIATE ACCESS. Signing onto AOL or MSN is faster than cooking 5-minute rice.

NATIONAL PROVIDERS (EarthLink, AT&T WorldNet) These are the McDonald's of the Internet—they maintain locations in lots of cities and strive to provide a standardized menu of services.

You should use a national ISP if:

YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY. These companies usually offer pared-down Net services for rates as low as \$9.95 a month.

YOU TRAVEL A LOT. Like commercial providers, national providers maintain access numbers for most locations in the country. Net access is a local call away, from anywhere.

YOU NEED STABILITY. Unlike some smaller Internet providers, AT&T WorldNet isn't likely to fold anytime soon.

YOU WANT BETTER-QUALITY SERVICE. National providers are a step up from commercial providers when it comes to faster access and more advanced Net-connection options.

LOCAL PROVIDERS (vary from city to city) Like locally owned bookstores, local ISPs charge more, but the service is more personalized. You should use a local provider if:

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GOOD TECH SUPPORT. Local providers have fewer customers and thus are more attentive to your needs.

YOU WOULD LIKE A WEB SITE. When it comes to Web server space, local providers are usually the most generous.

YOU WANT CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES. Local providers tend to be the first to debut cool new services, such as cable modems and satellite and wireless access.

FOR MORE TIPS, TRICKS, AND NET SHORTCUTS, SEE WWW.SURFSCHOOL.COM

BROWSER BEAT

TOP WAYS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR ONLINE CREDIT CARD PURCHASE

Before you punch your credit card number into a Web site form, it's crucial that you *make sure the page is secure*. Look for these browser clues.

N Click on the open padlock **4.0** in the bottom-left-hand corner of your browser (or hit Control/Shift/I). This will open a screen detailing the security of the Web page. Click on "Open Page Info" for more detailed information. If the page reads "Insecure," don't shop there!

N Release your credit card **3.0** number only when you see a blue line across the top of the page and an unbroken key on a blue background in the bottom-left-hand corner.

E You'll be alerted when a **4.0** page is safe for shopping by a locked yellow padlock, as in Explorer 3.0—except in 4.0 it sits in the bottom-left-hand corner.

E You'll be alerted when a **3.0** page is safe by a yellow padlock in the bottom-right-hand corner, locked to indicate that the page is secure.

NE Double-check the security of a Web page by looking at its address. If it reads "https://" instead of "http://" (notice the s after "http"), then you are dealing with a site using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL). SSL is the technical wizardry that insures that online information (such as a credit card number) is sent in encrypted form.

SUPERSIZE YOUR BROWSER WINDOW

There's a quicker way to increase or decrease the size of your browser than through the clunky "View" function.

E Use the new Full Screen **4.0** button. Toggle back and forth (large screen/small screen) by hitting the button repeatedly; it's especially useful for viewing pages that spill into the margins.

WEB PRIMER: REVIEW YOUR BROWSER BASICS

Need a quick explanation of your browser's functions? Don't feel ashamed to click on "Help."

N Drag down to the heading **4.0** "Help Contents."

N Drag down to "Frequently **3.0** Asked Questions."

E Drag down to the heading **3.0 & 4.0** "Web Tutorial."

NO QUESTION TOO OBVIOUS

Q. I want to get in touch with the creators of a Web site I like, but there's no contact information listed there. Is there a way to find out who runs the site?

A. The easiest way to obtain contact information concerning a Web site is to go to the Allwhois Web page at www.allwhois.com. Just type any Web site's domain (such as "yahoo.com" or "yil.com") into the query field and hit Return. The Allwhois database will retrieve administrative contacts for the Web site in question.



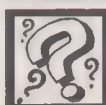
FREE DOWNLOAD OF THE MONTH

POWER SEARCHES

WebFerret (www.ferretsoft.com)

This software streamlines the task of searching the Net by querying a whole passel of search engines at once. WebFerret filters out any duplicate pages that turn up and gives you the results in record time. It's much faster than going to Excite and then WebCrawler and then Lycos and then AltaVista.

WOULD SOMEONE MIND EXPLAINING...



Java

To view things on the Web, your browser downloads text and graphics files. These files allow you to read documents (text) and view pictures (graphics). A couple of years ago, a group of programmers at Sun Microsystems figured out a way to send small programs (or "applets") across the Web and have them run on your computer. These applets are written with a programming language called Java. What does this mean for you, the user? For an example of what Java can do, go to www.talkcity.com. There, you can "speak" with other Web surfers in a chat room. The chat-room function isn't simply text, nor is it purely graphical—it's a computer program (an applet) written in Java.

In a nutshell, Java is a programming language for creating programs that your Web browser can download, just like text or graphics. These programs (the applets) add functionality or pizzazz to a Web site.

It's perfect for the workplace. Especially if you work for the space program.

Introducing the NEC Direction™ PC. The latest in cutting-edge technology from NEC.

The Direction system clearly wasn't designed for ordinary computer users. It features advanced technology like DirecPC, which offers a 400Kbps satellite connection to the Internet that's three times faster than ISDN. And light years faster than the average modem. After all, these highly sophisticated systems represent the next phase in PC technology. Which is precisely the kind of



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advancement people have come to expect from NEC. So call one of our System Consultants today and we'll ship you a Direction system immediately. Whether it's to Houston or anywhere else.



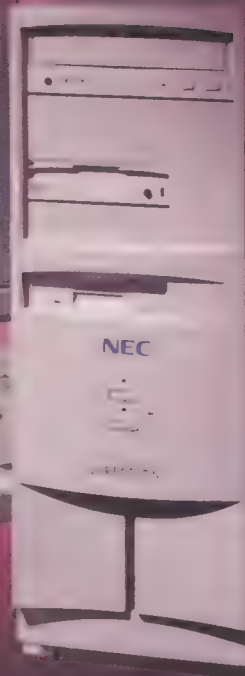
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TO
ORDER**

In PC World's MMX (technology) benchmark test, the NEC Direction SPL300 was fastest overall, thanks to its quick Number Nine Graphics Card with 8MB of VRAM.*

PC World, Feb. 1997

300
MHz



NEC Direction Personal Series Desktops

Common Features: Minitower or Desktop Tool-Less Chassis • 512KB L2 Cache • 24X max Variable Speed CD-ROM • 3.5" Floppy Drive • 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports • Integrated Yamaha Sound • U.S. Robotics® x2 56Kbps* Capable Modem • Microsoft® Windows® 95 • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • Microphone • Microsoft IntelliMouse® • Palmrest Keyboard • 3-Year Limited Warranty with 1-Year On-Site Service

Direction SPL300

- 300MHz Pentium® II processor featuring MMX technology
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- Diamond Viper™ 4MB SGRAM AGP Video Card
- Yamaha Wavetable Audio
- Altec® Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega® 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge
- Microsoft SideWinder® 3D Pro Joystick
- Microsoft Flight Simulator 98
- Microsoft Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART)
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\$2999

Leading Available Code #02041

Direction Upgrades

- * DirecPC® Satellite, add \$299
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * 3COM 3C905 10/100 PCI Network Card, add \$79

Direction SPL266

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- 7.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
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- Diamond Viper 4MB SGRAM AGP Video Card
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WHAT IS IT?

The term *freemail* describes e-mail accounts that are free to users. You probably receive e-mail through your service provider already, but freemail services offer additional addresses at no charge.

WHY WOULD I NEED ANOTHER ADDRESS?

TO GIVE TO STRANGERS. Give out your freemail address without worrying about your primary mailbox being besieged by unsavory characters.

SO YOU CAN KEEP YOUR ADDRESS, EVEN IF YOU MOVE TO ANOTHER PROVIDER. If you choose to leave or join a service such as AOL, you don't have to hassle with updating your friends or family on the change of address.

SO YOU CAN RECEIVE YOUR E-MAIL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AT NO COST. (Note: A few freemail services do limit their range to North America.)

YOU HAVE E-MAIL ONLY THROUGH YOUR COMPANY. Didn't you know? Your e-mail isn't private if you send it through your company's e-mail services.

YOU DON'T OWN A COMPUTER. You can receive freemail from any computer in the world—at the public library, at an Internet café, or at school.

TOP THREE FREEMAIL SERVICES

✉ **Hotmail** (www.hotmail.com). E-mail can be as easy as opening a Web page. Hotmail allows subscribers to pick up e-mail from any Web browser (so you'll need access to the Net). Open Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer and log onto the Hotmail site. Kapow! You've got your e-mail.

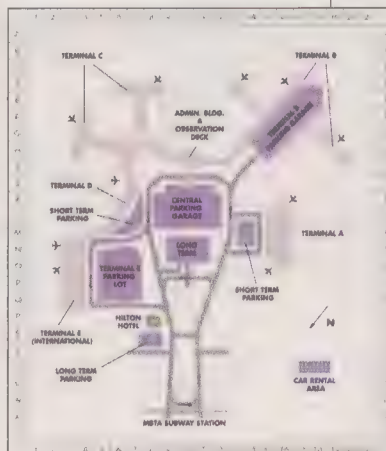
✉ **Yahoo! Mail** (mail.yahoo.com). Yahoo! Mail is yet another Web-based freemail service (one that recently joined with RocketMail). It's easy to use and offers excellent overall e-mail functionality.

✉ **Juno** (www.juno.com). If you want only e-mail (without subscribing to an ISP), Juno is the way to go. Order the installation disk by calling 800-654-JUNO (there is an \$8.82 one-time fee for mail delivery), or download it for free at the Juno Web site.



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REMINDERS: E-MAIL NOTIFICATION Never Forget

www.neverforget.com
Missed a loved one's birthday lately? Contrite tears no longer

get you out of trouble? Take a few moments to link over to Never Forget, an e-mail reminder service. In 10 minutes, you can have every conceivable special occasion marked on a virtual calendar. Never Forget stores this information and then sends out an e-mail reminder to you a week before each event. It's a nice solution for the absentminded.

RESEARCH: ANY QUESTION ANSWERED Ask Jeeves

www.askjeeves.com

Ask Jeeves is essentially a directory of questions and answers to life's common queries, such as "What's on TV tonight?" or



"What route should I take to get from here to there?" The directory is fast,

simple to use, and surprisingly accurate. Jeeves does falter from time to time, however, when asked questions that necessitate highly elaborate responses. In such instances, Jeeves (using keywords in your question) queries the larger search engines to suggest useful links.

SECRETS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDERS

AMERICA ONLINE—FIND A FRIEND'S MEMBER ADDRESS

It's easy to lose fellow chatters in the keyboard shuffle. To locate the username of a friend on AOL, simply go to keyword *Members*, click on "Advanced Search," and type a keyword into the field marked "Search entire profile...." Then click the "Return only members online" box and add any pertinent information about the correspondent. All potential usernames will pop up to help jog your memory.

MICROSOFT NETWORK—CHANGE YOUR ACCESS NUMBER

MSN members are subject to the same busy signals that AOL subscribers are, so it's nice to know how to swap dial-up numbers. Right-click on the MSN icon on your desktop. Drag down to "Connection Settings." Select an access number by clicking on "Phone Book." Enter the required info and click "OK." Also, go to "?," then "Help and Support," then "Access Numbers" to find all dial-ups in your region.



ANNOUNCING

A NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE VEHICLE FOR CRUISING THE WORLD WIDE WEB.

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vehicle comes
with the following
options standard:*

*Interactive vehicle
selector application*

*Dynamic custom
path function*

*Real-time
stock quote*

*Daily news
updates*

*Improved dealer
locator*

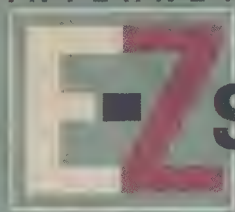
*Virtual reality
tour of our
global headquarters*

*Over 350 pages
of content and
250 links*



General Motors.

CHEVROLET PONTIAC OLDSMOBILE BUICK CADILLAC GMC



shopper SMART BUYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

PICKS OF THE MONTH BY JACLYN EASTON



Honk If You Need a Print Shop

1 Whether it's a simple personal calling card you want or a few thousand bumper stickers for the local hockey club, iPrint lets you design and order it all at its online store. Who would have thought going to the printer could be fun? And the prices are right, too.

iPrint

www.iprint.com

Magnetic Attractions

4 One trip to Friggedoor.com will hide your avocado-green refrigerator from the local Martha Stewart wanna-bes forever. Choose from an incredible 400-plus inventory, categorized into themes that range from "Marvel Super Heroes" and "Varga Girls" to "Kennedys." Just remember to keep these gems away from the PC's hard disk, OK?

Friggedoor.com

www.friggedoor.com

An Interesting Prop-osition

2 Yes, it lives, that icon of nerddom, the mythical propeller beanie. This genuine felt number comes complete with a spinning propeller. At \$4.95, why not treat the tech staff at work to a new accessory?

Archie McPhee

www.mcphee.com



But Do They Stock The Carpenters?

3 How does the concept of CDs at 1977 LP prices grab you? Price tags average \$4.99 to \$8.99 for preowned discs. These gems come in new, scratch-free jewel boxes. Flat-rate shipping is \$4.95.

BestUsedCDs.com

bestusedcds.com



ASK THE MAVEN

Q. What's a shopping agent? How is it useful to me?

A. Shopping agents, typically available in the form of a software download, search storefronts across the Net to find a product that fits your criteria. This process combines the best aspect of an online mall—namely one-stop consolidation—with the power and specificity of a search engine. Check out Jango (www.jango.com) for an example of one such agent.

AT THE AUCTIONS

Exhume your passport before perusing the amazing deals at Going Going Gone (www.goinggoinggone.com), host of the Travel Auction Network and the Travel Clearing House. Bargains abound here. **Recent sales:** Ten-day southern Caribbean cruise for two, retail value of \$3,138, sold for \$649; round trip to Hong Kong from San Francisco or Los Angeles at \$200. You can't pick the dates of travel—those are predetermined—but the bargains are not.

I CAN BUY WHAT ON THE NET?

Aspiring land tycoons can start building their empires an inch at a time at Maui Buy The Inch. For \$15.99, you get a tiny prime parcel on Hawaii's paradise island. The deal includes a Certificate of Deed to your property.

Maui Buy the Inch

aloha-mall.com/buy-maui





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- Gift Selections
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Spiegel



Historians tell us that things that seemed inconsequential at the time often turn out to be the longest remembered, and stuff that seemed huge may have been just a flash in the pan...

So let us set aside 1997's biggest Net news—the Communications Decency Act defeat, the spam wars, the government's continuing assault on privacy—and look at the Net's tea leaves (Web pages, that is) to discern its destiny. I predict that the **marginalization** of the amateur spirit online will turn out to have had the biggest effect on the Net as we'll come to know it in five years...

The Web was built by fans of "Star Trek," Tolkien, Pink Floyd, "Calvin and Hobbes," "Bloom County," and other **pop-culture debris**. Back when most folks' idea of the ultimate computer experience involved Sonic the Hedgehog, ordinary geeks were making Web pages for other ordinary geeks. But then the Web got cool, and then it got trendy, and then...

The most significant and **disquieting** trend on the Net is the battle between the people who own the cultural debris and the people who use (that is, read and watch) it...Many of the companies that make TV shows, comics, music, and so forth have made it their business to find fan sites and shut them down. These people argue that they're protecting their intellectual properties, while fans say that they're squelching genuine appreciation in favor of sterile corporate sites. **Legal beagles** this year have targeted fan sites for Oasis, "The X-Files," "Millennium," "Melrose Place," Conan O'Brien, and more...

As with anything really important, there are **shades of gray here**. Some

of the affected sites were using enough photos and sound clips to fill a book, or fanfic (fan-created fiction) that would make Larry Flynt blush. Others, though, were doing little more than expressing enthusiasm for the topic at hand. Without good judgment by lawyers (HA!), those distinctions get trampled...

Meanwhile, we're aware in these **post-Diana times** that fan attentions can be a bit...much. And as writing is my living, I'm quick to defend copyright—when photos, writings, and sound clips are used by the bushel, the bounds of fair use get exceeded, and artists get cheated...On the other hand, much of the clampdown reeks of a basic truth: Famous folk generally prefer **dumb admiration**. That's "dumb" as in *both* mute and mindless. Tough, guys; **that ain't the Net**—or at least it wasn't till the legal beagles were set loose...

Solutions? Well, smart entertainment folk—the "Babylon 5" team, for instance—work hard to keep abreast of their own online presence. As long as fan sites of this show are **respectful** (and include a link to the official site, please), Warner Bros. doesn't go after them. In return, when "Bab5" was threatened with cancellation, the Net mobilized to save the show. And the show was saved. David Letterman's people at Worldwide Pants are also known to be cool about working with Web fans...Or there are sites such as World Wide Information Outlet, explicitly committed to free online info (www.certificate.net/wwio)...

I don't know about you, but if it were

up to the Net to save, say, Oasis, or any of Aaron Spelling's brain-dead output, I rather hope the Net would give as good as it's gotten, which is **three knuckles and a fingernail**. And that, my dears, is the deepest story of 1997.

On and On and Online

Over at Prodigy, users have been wailing about ads that load before the service's main page, à la America

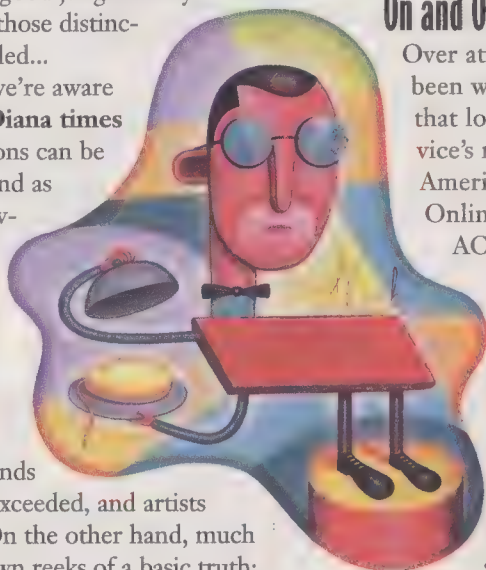
Online...Speaking of AOL, enough with all the channels, already!...

I'm not sure if the Influence Channel has a name catchy enough to draw traffic, but I dig the concept (gossip, movers and

shakers, and **the good life**)...This new crop of "AOL Insiders" talking up stuff on the service—does it sound a little like The Mining Company?...Are you excited yet about C From CompuServe? It's cool to be able to get to CSI's forums via the Web...

Sticky Notes

Sony is enhancing tons of its back-catalog albums to make interactive CDs. Expect Dylan to be among the first to be so "updated"...Take a trip back in time with those daring young men in their flying machines at The Aerodrome, www.theaerodrome.com... Finally, if it's a **sense of perspective** you seek, genuinely the most important story of the year (yes, there's more to life than the Net!) is at www.panda.org/climate_event. Until next time, gentle readers...





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September 9, 1997

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 - Free newsletter
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 - Free 1-888-994-4444
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 - Complete software for Windows or Mac
 - Personal Website Hosting available
 - Hosting to high speed access



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SAFETY NET

CHARLES PAPPAS



During the Civil War, when newspapers fought over war news like talk shows fight over dysfunctional families, the *Chicago Times's* Wilbur F. Storey ordered one reporter to telegraph "all the news you can get, and when there is no news, send rumors."

If you heard the ruckus over Web journalist Matt Drudge's wrongly accusing a Clinton adviser of wife-beating, or the disgust over faked photos of Princess Diana's death, you'd think the rest of the media was, to quote the cynical Claude Rains in *Casablanca*, "shocked, shocked!" to see that the Internet might sometimes dive to the low depths of Mr. Storey. James Warren of *The Chicago Tribune*, for one, thundered against Drudge's presence in the ranks of legitimate newsmongers.

Is the Internet nothing more than unmediated covens of pathological liars making up slurs and conspiracy tales and spreading them at the speed of light?

Hardly. The Internet can be as reputable as any other journalistic organ, with The Nando Times (www2.nando.net), Mercury Center (www.sjmercury.com/index.htm), CNET's News.com (www.news.com), CNN Interactive (www.cnn.com), and Yahoo! News (www.yahoo.com/headlines), among others, keeping a public better informed—and much more quickly informed—than ever. And any excesses or errors are exactly

News Flash! Old News Is Bad News!

Is news more truthful on the Internet?

like those of the Net's ancestors. A brief sampler: Radio was more than happy to broadcast Father Charles E. Coughlin's anti-Semitic, pro-Fascist tirades in the 1930s; Orson Welles threw the nation into a tizzy with the "War of the Worlds" broadcast (after which *The New York Times* inveighed against the irresponsibility of radio); NBC's "exposé" of a flammable GM truck was enhanced by model rockets attached to the vehicle to produce a more cinematic explosion; "60 Minutes," *Time*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, and "The MacNeil/Lehrer Report" whipped up public fear back in 1989 over Alar, a pesticide used on apples that was feared would speed the growth rate of tumors...the list could go on, but you get the idea. As

Douglas Rushkoff (clix.net/5thworld/dr/index.html), author of

Media Virus, told me, there's nothing inherent in the Web that makes it more dangerous than any other form of media. "It's the mainstream media worried about people getting their information from somewhere else," he says.

Rushkoff has a point. "I was inspired to put my site up because of the Gulf War," says Brian Redman of Conspiracy Nation (www.shout.net/~bigred/cn.html). "I didn't

think there was enough dissent showing through the regular media." Though he admits he doesn't believe everything he posts at CN—especially anything to do with space aliens—he does believe that Clinton aide Vince Foster's suicide and the Oklahoma

City bombing may have been covered up. Nutty? OK, but Buddhist nuns giving \$166,000 in political donations is a little nutty, too.

Project Censored (censored.sonoma.edu/censored), which spotlights stories the media underplays, shows how often the traditional bearers of news miss the boat, as, for example, they blithely circumnavigate the special corporate perks attached to the recent minimum-wage bill, or the exposure of our troops in the Persian Gulf to toxic depleted-uranium weapons without proper preparation.

Arthur Jipson, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Miami-Ohio, notes that since Watergate, we've learned how the press decided not to mention John F. Kennedy's dalliances, that the government used its own citizens for radiation experiments, and that O.J. Simpson's face was darkened on the cover of *Time* to make him appear more menacing. The danger isn't in the Web itself, Jipson adds: "It's when everyone lies so much nothing in particular can be trusted, so paradoxically anything could be trusted."

So how do we tell the fake from the real on the Net? "When the attribution of sources for a story is scant, it's probably fake," Jipson says, "because fact-checking for small news operations on the Net can be remarkably flexible. That's the giveaway."

But aren't our children more vulnerable? Hardly, says Jipson: "Pierre Salinger was duped into believing a missile hit the TWA flight because he read it on the Net. It's older people you should worry about. They're like the early audiences for movies who ran for safety when they saw a train coming at them on the screen. The younger ones catch on a lot quicker."



**How'd we come up with an online
game based on acronyms?
One day, it just came to us.**

IRS

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Penalty for Private Use, \$300

**Incredibly Repressed Sexually?
Immediately Return Sports-car?
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Here's the drill: we pitch acronyms online. You try to out-clever other players before time expires. While there, play our other hit, **YOU DON'T KNOW JACK®** the netshow. It's another great way to win terrific prizes. Which, it turns out, you gotta declare. Sheesh. Acrophobia. Get Over It.

ACROPHOBIA

play it @ www.bezerk.com

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1997 THE YEAR ON THE NET

Yahoo! Internet Life's SECOND ANNUAL TOP O' THE NET SURVEY PRESENTS THE SITES, SERVICES, STORIES, STARS, AND STRANGE, WONDROUS PEOPLE WE ENCOUNTERED ONLINE IN 1997

THE TIPPITY-TOP

TOP SITES '97, PERIOD

Netscape • Yahoo! • Microsoft

TOP NEWS SITES

CNN • USA Today • ABC News

TOP BUSINESS/FINANCE SITES

Yahoo! Business/Stock Quotes • Nasdaq.com • Bloomberg News

TOP ENTERTAINMENT SITES

MTV • Internet Movie Database • Hollywood Online

TOP SPORTS SITES

ESPN SportsZone • Sports Illustrated • NBA.com

TOP GAME SITES

The Station (Sony) • Gamespot.com • Gamecenter.com

TOP CORPORATE SITES

United Parcel Service • Nike • Federal Express

TOP MUSIC SITES

www.music.warnerbros.com
• www.music.sony.com • www.cdnw.com

TOP TRAVEL SITES

Hotel Discounts • City.net (Excite) • Travelocity

TOP BOOKSELLERS

Amazon.com • Barnes and Noble • Book Stacks Unlimited

TOP CHAT SITES

Yahoo! Chat • WebChat Broadcasting System • TalkCity—The Chat Network

TOP NEWSGROUPS

alt.sex • rec.arts
• comp.sys.ibm.pc

(Source: Deja News)

TOP COMPUTER INFO SITES

CNET • ZDNet

(Rankings reported by Web 21 except where noted)

97 TIME LINE

JANUARY

■ CompuServe blitzed America Online during the Super Bowl with a commercial that attacked the online service's busy-signal problems.



ONLINE MAN OF THE YEAR

STEVE CASE, AOL

It may irk pure-Net users, but the ups and downs of America Online and its chief, **Steve Case**, had the most impact on the online world in 1997. **Bill Gates's** browser moves and the surge of **Jerry Yang** and **David Filo's** Yahoo! (yep, our biz partners) gave them close-contender status. But AOL's bumpy rebound, huge subscriber growth, media presence (Steve on *Time's* cover), if-ya-can't-beat-'em embrace of the Web, and buyout of CompuServe made for an eventful year. Busy signals or not, AOL's whopping 40 percent of home Net surfers in '97 makes the case for Case.



NET VILLAIN OF THE YEAR

"SPAMFORD" WALLACE

The most visible of the commercial spammers—i.e., The Most Hated Man on the Internet—is legally on the ropes as we go to press. But like Freddie Krueger, Sanford Wallace may yet rise again; others like him continue to wreak havoc on our e-mail boxes.

HEROES OF THE YEAR

THE SUPREME COURT MAKES ITS CDA DECISION



■ Faced with weeks of bad publicity and angry subscribers trying to log on, AOL said it would begin "selectively" offering refunds to customers who called and complained.

■ "Star Trek"'s owner, Viacom, signed a deal with MSN for all "Trek" rights and ordered

other Web sites to remove copyrighted "Star Trek" material or face legal action.

■ The American Film Institute's Web site used



VDOLive to inaugurate OnLine Cinema with Charlie Chaplin's silent classic *The Rink*.

FEBRUARY

■ AOL leased 50,000 modems to cut down on its busy-signal access problems and promote its reliability.

NET EVENT OF THE YEAR

PRINCESS DIANA



Diana, Princess of Wales, 1961-1997. The global extent of online reaction to her death probably isn't measurable, but this was the year that Mourning truly Became Electric.

COOLEST SITE OF THE YEAR

EXPEDIA.COM

This travel-and-adventure site copped the most praise from Net coolmeisters (*Yahoo! Internet Life*, Cool Site of the Day, Project Cool, *PC Magazine*) and travel connoisseurs (Epicurious). It may have been Microsoft's one inarguably smart content move.

RUNNER-UP: The Onion.com. Sick, mean, and hilarious, this never-boring satirical site won an avalanche of online "cool" citations.

THE YEAR IN RHYME

TOP SITE

On July 8, 1997, NASA's mars.jpl.nasa.gov received 46.9 million hits across 20 mirror sites worldwide. That's an estimated 1.9 million visitors on the day, 690 million hits to date.

TOP RIGHT

Post-CDA, freedom of speech was reaffirmed.

TOP SIGHT

The abandoned site of the Heaven's Gate cult became a global sightseeing curiosity.

TOP FIGHTS

Netscape vs. Microsoft browsers, Part 4... Amazon.com vs. Barnes and Noble...Gates vs. Reno

TOP BLIGHTS

Spam Spouters...Privacy Predators

TOP BITES

Marv Albert
www.science.wayne.edu/~mmadej/marv.html
Mike Tyson Bites www.tysonbites.com

TOP FRIGHTS	
PARANOIA INDEX	
RATING	BIGGEST NET FEARS OF 1998
☹☹☹	That the grocer doesn't know my name, but four adult sites do
☹☹	That I'll have more bookmarks than the Yahoo! directory
☹☹	Bandwidth tighter than Al Gore's smile
☹☹	My connection is rerouted through Estonia
☹	Cardio-carpal tunnel syndrome
☹☹☹☹	Bill Gates wants my kid's lemonade stand
☹☹	Still more plug-ins
☹☹☹☹	The Y-Life swimsuit issue
☹☹☹☹	Meeting my parents in a private chat room
☹☹☹☹	Smell-u, Smell-me
<div> <div>☹ PRETTY SCARY</div> <div>☹☹☹☹ ORWELL WAS RIGHT!</div> </div>	



■ RealNetworks, maker of RealAudio, introduced RealVideo—high-quality video over modems operating as slow as 28.8Kbps. The RealPlayer debuted with three Spike Lee short films created especially for the new medium.

TIME LINE PHOTO: SUPER BOWL XXXI: RICK STEWART/ALL SPORT



TOP ENTERTAINMENT PT 1

TOP OVERALL AUDIO EVENT

Super Bowl XXXI
on AudioNet; January 26, 1997
Sources: AudioNet traffic logs

TOP MOVIES

Star Wars
Men in Black • The Lost World
Sources: Web 21 hit counts among the top 500,000 most-visited Web pages and an Internet Movie Database query count



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TOP BANDS

The Beatles
The Grateful Dead • Nirvana
Source: Yahoo! search engine tally at press time



ASSOCIATED PRESS AP

TOP CONCERTS

Blockbuster Rockfest June 20-22, 1997
Tibetan Freedom Fest June 7-8, 1997
Sources: AudioNet traffic logs

TOP ONE-DAY VIDEO DOWNLOAD

"ER" Preshow Video
on NBC.com
Source: NBC.com count of total downloads on September 18, 1997

TOP DOWNLOADED WOMAN

CINDY MARGOLIS

Cindy Who? (Year Two!)

Everyone loves a winner, but a two-time winner is a candidate for a league of her own. She surprised us with her win last year as the most downloaded human online. This year, she's surprised us again: No, we're not talking about Pamela Lee, Gillian Anderson, or Jenny McCarthy, but Cindy Margolis, swimsuit model, budding actress, and all-around All-American Girl. The stats: America Online reports 750,000 downloads of her 100-photo portfolio, in addition to the image grabs from her own two Web sites, Cindymargolis.com and Cindy's World, and the Yahoo! Celebrities roundup.

So what has Margolis been doing in her busy year as reigning Online Pinup Queen? In addition to her June Yahoo! chat stint ("...in between David Letterman and Will Smith—you can't ask for more than that," she says), Margolis will soon star in *Undercover Angel*, "a family movie in which I won't be wearing a bikini."

True to her self-described girl-next-door image, Margolis is modest about her rampant popularity: "I feel so lucky; I'm a geek at heart. I have all my cyberbuddies out there." Indeed, Margolis is loyal to her online followers and is eager to answer all her e-mail, too. "I try to make it really personal and intimate. I can sit in my pajamas in the middle of the night and do my mail. People have brought me to this point, so I want to show my appreciation."

Contrary to what you may think, fans behave in their correspondence. "People think there are perverts out there with all the cybersex going on, but rarely do I get a rude or off-color e-mail." Margolis also says about 40 percent of her mail is from women asking how to keep in shape, "partially because I've done an exercise video." Welcome back, Cindy.

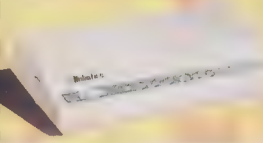


ANDY PEARLMAN/SHOOTING STAR

97
TIME LINE

FEBRUARY continued

■U.S. Robotics beat Motorola by shipping the first 56Kbps modem.



MARCH

■When it published a purported confession by Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh on its Web site, *The Dallas Morning News* actually scooped its print self.



■Queen Elizabeth II opened up Buckingham Palace to Internet surfers.

■Austrian Internet access providers dropped off the Net for two hours—a



united protest against a recent government raid.

■MCI Communications Corp. teamed up with the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide a one-stop Web site for teaching material for all schoolchildren.

TOP DOWNLOADED MAN

BRAD PITT

Pitt's Glitz+Bits = Hits

Among all the encomiums of his acting career, the revelation that online he is regarded as the male equivalent of Cindy Margolis must mean something very special to Brad Pitt. For the reluctant sex symbol, it probably ranks right alongside learning he had won the title of *People's Sexiest Man of the Year*. The evidence begins at America Online, where Pitt's was the most downloaded male image (250,000 times), and continues at search engines such as AltaVista, where you can find 20,000 references—that's twice as many as George Clooney gets. Take a closer look and you will see that Pitt's links are almost all drawn from Net picture galleries. So whatever the future holds—Oscar, shmoscar!—you've reached the peak now, Pitt.



CHAT CHAMPIONS

ONLINE SERVICES & THE WEB

AMERICA ONLINE

ROSIE O'DONNELL



E! ONLINE

(with Capitol Records)
SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY



PRODIGY

GEORGE CLOONEY



YAHOO!

"Party of Five"s
JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT



MICROSOFT NETWORK

JEFF GOLDBLUM
MARTHA STEWART



WIRED.COM

(HotSeat)
GILLIAN ANDERSON



MSNBC

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV



NBC.COM

NBC All-Star Chat Party
JENNY MCCARTHY • ICE-T



Sources: Individual organizations' chat-attendance reports

TOP ENTERTAINMENT PT 2

TOP MULTIPLAYER GAMES

Duke Nukem 3D

Dark Sun Online • Quake

Source: Total Entertainment Network traffic logs



TOP MAGAZINES

Newsweek

Time • Playboy

Source: Electronic Newsstand site-query tally

MOST CITED NAMES

Diana, Princess of Wales

Bill Gates

Source: Web 21 hit counts among the top 500,000 most-visited Web sites

TOP SPORTING EVENTS

ESPN SportsZone

NCAA Tournament Opener, March 13, 1997

Source: ESPN SportsZone traffic logs

TOP JOCKS

Michael Jordan

Tiger Woods • Dennis Rodman

Source: Web 21 hit counts among the top 500,000 most-visited Web sites



BRANDER/SPORT

TOP CITES '97 • Special citations for "1997: The Year on the Net" to writers Howard Gensler and Ed Weiner. Thanks for research to America Online, AudioNet, CBS SportsLine, CNET, Electronic Newsstand, E! Online, ESPN SportsZone, Find/SVP, HotWired, Internet Movie Database, Media Central, Media Metrix, Microsoft Network, MSNBC, NASA, NBC, Prodigy, Total Entertainment Network, Web 21, Win Treese, Yahoo!, and ZDNet.

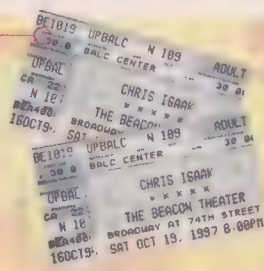
■Thirty-nine members of the Heaven's Gate cult committed suicide. As the cult did Web design work to pay bills, many in the mainstream press were quick to blame the Net.



Networks Inc. for \$425 million. TVs and PCs grew closer.

■Microsoft retaliated against CitySearch with its Sidewalk services, sparking a major battle among Yahoo! Local and many newspaper sites for the hearts and minds of local users.

■Ticketmaster Group filed suit against Microsoft, alleging that a free link from Microsoft's Seattle Sidewalk entertainment site to Ticketmaster's site, without Ticketmaster's permission, constituted a form of "electronic piracy."



APRIL

■Microsoft acquired WebTV

And Now...the Rest of the Year

BY HOWARD GENSLER AND ED WEINER

SWM Seeks Billionaire

After Microsoft chairman Bill Gates began receiving threatening letters and demands for a \$5 million payment, the FBI posed as the software guru in an online dating forum to nab a 21-year-old Illinois man on extortion charges. The man had asked Gates to respond to an America Online dating advice service called NetGirl.

Bushnell? Get Me Rozelle!

Signaling its bid for big-league status, the Professional Gamers' League (www.pgl.net) began tournament play with \$250,000 in cash and prizes. Semilegendary Nolan Bushnell, who invented Pong and headed Atari, is to serve as "commissioner." The sports? Quake and Command & Conquer. Word from the NFL: It's not worried. Yet.

The Name Is Bond... james.dot.com.bond

■ According to news reports, foreign agents and former Russian spies have given up traditional spy gadgets and have turned instead to the Net for intelligence gathering because they can get so much more information without relying on a single source.

■ According to BBC TV, Dutch hackers broke into U.S. defense computers and stole hundreds of military secrets, and offered them for sale to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.



COOL SITES

QUAKE

WEB MARRIAGES

WEB CHANNELS

CYBERCAFÉS

E-MAIL

THE NET AS PLOT DEVICE

THE GOOD TIMES VIRUS

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS

WEBCAMS IN DORM ROOMS

COOKIES

ANTICENSORSHIP

BLOATED BROWSERS

AD BANKERS

LATEST CITY GUIDE

SPAM

SENATOR EXON

CENSORWARE

URLs IN TV COMMERCIALS

PUSH



DAIKATANA

USEFUL SITES

DAIKATANA

WEB DIVORCES

WEB RINGS

WIRELESS PDAs

FREEMAIL

THE NET AS PROP

THE AOL4FREE TROJAN HORSE

FILING FOR BANKRUPTCY

WEBCAMS IN BUSINESS

COOKIE-EATING SOFTWARE

PRO-STRONG ENCRYPTION

UNPLUGGED BROWSERS

WEB COMMERCIALS

LATEST GEOCITIES SITE

HORMEL'S SPAMTASTIC SITE

SENATOR FEINSTEIN

RSAC

URLs ON BLIMPS

SHOVE IT

Yakkety-Yak!

"In 20 or 30 years, you'll be able to hold in your hand as much computing knowledge as exists now in the whole city, or even the whole world."

—DOUGLAS ENGELBART, 72, inventor of the computer mouse



97 TIME LINE

APRIL continued

■ The Yahoo! directory announced the first 1 billion-page-view month. The figure, a measurement of the number of clicks on a Web site, would double just six months later.



MAY

■ Oasis, the rock band, gave hundreds of Web sites 30 days to remove copyrighted and unauthorized photos, sound clips, and lyrics or face lawsuits because such use "can be seen as theft."



■ Millions used the Internet to follow a historic chess match in which Deep Blue, IBM's supercomputer, defeated world champion Garry Kasparov, the first time a machine had beaten a grand master at this level. Kasparov blamed his defeat on human interference.



Yakkety-Yak!



"The question, 'May I have permission to link to your site?' has got me really upset. You and I have a right to discuss something. You don't have to ask someone's permission to talk about them."

—TIM BERNERS-LEE, creator of the World Wide Web

EPG

Life Imitating Art Imitating Life

At the Cannes Film Festival, Michael Burns, creator of the Internet game Hollywood Stock Exchange, announced that he had followed up the game with the reel thing—an actual film production company with five low-budget pictures in various stages of production.

So Many Sites, So Little Content



Looking for a way to take your frustrations out on particularly irksome Web pages? A free software program called Web Vengeance by SegaSoft allows you to shoot virtual AK-47s or hurl rotten tomatoes at sites you don't like—whether they're annoying or just plain slow.



JUNE

■The Book-of-the-Month Club opened a Web site, the club's first new way of selling books in 71 years.

■Netscape upped the ante in the browser wars and launched Netscape Communicator.

12

Percentage of people who remember a banner ad from a Web site

10

Percentage of people who remember a TV ad

34

Percentage of the nation's executives who don't use the Net at all

31

Percentage of CIOs planning to increase Internet spending significantly in 1998

20

Number of Americans who consider the Net indispensable

72

Percentage of Internet users who have called their provider's technical-support desk at least once

Pranks for the Memories



AP PHOTO/STRIKE

■It was possibly Kurt Vonnegut's most famous speech, and it was certainly his most widely read. But the 850-word graduation address reportedly given to the MIT class of '97, which circulated for weeks on the Internet, was actually written—and not as a prank—by columnist Mary Schmich for *The Chicago Tribune*.

■A chain e-mail detailing the tragic illness of 7-year-old South Carolinian Jessica Mydek and seeking to raise money for her treatment turned out to be a nasty hoax.

Yakkety-Yak!



EPG

"Tightening the Net is difficult because the information flows like an unstoppable wind. Once you try to block people, they try to get in another way. The Net is unpolicable."

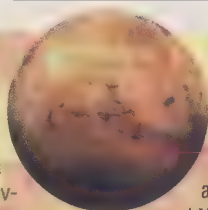
—G.S. RAO, University of Brunel professor, concerning Chinese moves to curtail newly acquired Hong Kong's freedom of the press

He's a Trooper, All Right

Using the screen names TPRMAN and OHIOSTATIE, a U.S. Navy recruiter convinced at least five women he met on the Internet that he was a state highway patrol trooper, and this "fact" induced at least two of them to have sex with him. He was charged with impersonating a police officer.

Think of It as Hitler's Lottery

To dispel suspicions that Swiss banks were not trying hard enough to locate the assets of victims of the Nazi genocide campaign, The Swiss Bankers Association set up a Web site listing the names of people who opened an account before the end of World War II and who hadn't been heard from for 10 years or longer.



tected by the First Amendment."

JULY

■Mars attacked, as Webnauts invaded NASA's site to get the latest photos and facts about the *Pathfinder* mission on the

■The Supreme Court slapped down the 1996 Communications Decency Act with a ruling that the government's attempt to censor cyberspace "abridges the freedom of speech pro-

ted planet; the site recorded 46.9 million hits in one day.

■The Nevada state legislature signed Senate Bill No. 13, the first law of the land on spam, which "prohibits sending certain unsolicited electronic mail under certain circumstances."



WEBB CHAPPEL

How Chic Is Geek?

For those pondering the question, "How do I stay logged on and still make a fashion statement?" the answer came in the world's first wearable-computer fashion show this fall in Cambridge, Mass. Sponsored by MIT, it had models sporting tiny chips in every conceivable nook, cranny, and chignon.

33

Age of the average Net user

61

Percentage likelihood of MTV watchers to go online vs. the average American

32

Percentage likelihood of A&E Network watchers to go online vs. the average American

424,000

Number of Web pages that haven't been updated or revised since early 1995

Village of the Spammed



PHOTOISC

To protest the flood of junk e-mails, a Net group that opposes unsolicited e-mails declared Cinco de Mayo Cyberpromo Mailbomb Day (after the Mexican revolution anniversary date) and shut down spam masters Cyber Promotions for 20 hours.

How 'bout Them Cowboys?

The site www.policescanner.com/index.html allows listeners to tune into live radio transmissions of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Dallas Police and Fire Departments. And just so you don't get lost, the site lists the police radio codes for each city.

Yakkety-Yak!



"It takes time to take a raw, untamed technology and turn it into a compelling medium. All media go through adolescence; the Web happens to be going through a particularly rough one."

—PAUL SAFO, futurist

"[It's like] The Monkees. They had a few hits and then disappeared. Java will be the same. It will be totally forgotten. Microsoft is The Beatles."

—CHARLES SIMONYI, Microsoft applications creator, on Sun Microsystems' Java

FIG

From Chat Room to Courtroom, #1



PHOTOISC

A court in Virginia awarded \$264,000 to a woman who married a "businessman dying of AIDS" she met over the Net. The problem? Four months after the wedding, she discovered her "husband" was another woman.

From Chat Room to Courtroom, #2

A 22-year-old Air Force deserter faced criminal charges after being found with a 14-year-old girl who ran away from home to be with him four months earlier. The two met in the Black Rose Nightclub, an Internet site devoted to the game Vampire: The Masquerade.

At Fake Cronkite Site, Spit Hits the Fan



Once considered "the most trusted man in America," famed TV newsman Walter Cronkite was angered when a Net search on his name turned up an Ohio man's home page with a fictional account of a drunken Mr. Cronkite accosting the man in a restaurant and spitting in his food. Cronkite called the site "scurrilous." Said the man, who closed down the site: "It was never my intention to hurt anyone."

KELLY MOONEY/CORBIS

TIME LINE



AUGUST

■ White House aide Sidney Blumenthal filed a \$30 million libel suit against online gossip columnist Matt Drudge, who accused Blumenthal of having a "spousal abuse past."

■ The death of Princess Diana became another watershed event in the global Internet community, as millions logged into chat rooms to grieve together.

■ The Nasdaq stock exchange was knocked off much of the Internet for a few hours as the



result of an administrative goof at InterNIC, the centralized Internet address clearinghouse.

■ Microsoft shocked the Macworld audience in Boston when Steve Jobs announced that Bill Gates was investing \$150 million in Apple Computer.

Why merely possess a game when you can **OWN IT?**



Simply put, games are meant to be dominated, not merely played. And though practice may eventually get you to perfection, the Microsoft® SideWinder® Precision Pro will get you there a lot quicker.

And with the new ergonomically designed stick, buttons are at your fingertips and right under your thumb. You know, the same place you wish your games were.

With Microsoft SideWinder Precision Pro you get:

- patented digital-optical technology
- unbeatable accuracy and reliability with no actual wear and tear
- shift button to double functions
- map specific keystrokes, maneuvers, and strings
- 30 pre-loaded game profiles
- on-handle rotation control

Microsoft

Where do you want to go today?

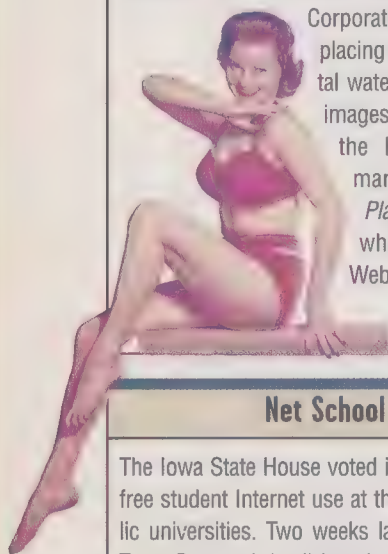
www.microsoft.com/sidewinder

MICROSOFT
SIDEWINDER
Precision Pro



Beauty Marks? Those Are Watermarks

A too-frequent victim of Net piracy, *Playboy* magazine teamed with the Digimark Corporation and began placing invisible digital watermarks in the images it posted on the Internet. The marks allowed *Playboy* to track where on the Web the images ended up.



G. CORE

Net School

The Iowa State House voted in April to end free student Internet use at the state's public universities. Two weeks later, Governor Terry Branstad (realizing that college students are old enough to vote) vetoed the bill.

Tommy—the Soap Opera

In other fashion news, designer Tommy Hilfiger was forced to launch an e-mail campaign to assure minorities that they remained valued customers after he was blasted by baseless cyberspace allegations of racism in his business dealings.



AP PHOTO/LYNN SLADKY

A Moral Dilemma

A student at Vanderbilt University who founded Peacefire, a Net anticensorship group, faced the wrath of Solid Oak Software, makers of the popular blocking program CyberSitter, when he determined that CyberSitter blocked more than sex, violence, and swearing. Also blocked were politically oriented sites from the National Organization for Women, Mother Jones, The Well, and others.



AP PHOTO/SSA, RAGAN

98

Percentage of chat-room participants who believe others in the chat are being dishonest

5

Percentage of Net surfers who actually claim to have had their privacy violated

3

Percentage of Web commercial sites categorized as having adult content

50

Percentage of Net users who say they have no interest in building a Web page

\$113

Average amount online supermarket shoppers spend per shopping "trip"



"You never miss an appointment, you don't have to get a baby-sitter, you don't have to take an hour off work, you don't have to wait until the appointment to talk about what happened."

—LAWRENCE MURPHY, cofounder of Therapy Online, an e-mail-based psychotherapy business

"Take marketing to kids on the Internet. If they were doing it on a playground, we'd put our foot down. We wouldn't allow it. I don't think it should be any different when they go into a child's bedroom."

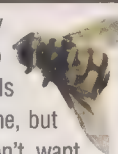
—ALAN WESTIN, Columbia University professor

Texas Secedes—and It's Their Fault

Two Texas ISPs refused to turn over info about members of a secessionist movement—the Republic of Texas—who used their services. The ISPs claimed that the Texas attorney general was violating their subscribers' privacy rights.

Note to Texas Lawmakers: Buzz Off

Net censors may not want you to discuss the birds and the bees online, but it seems they don't want you to discuss just the bees, either. The Texas Department of Agriculture fined beekeeper John Caldeira \$600 and charged him with violating a state law banning unapproved discussions of bee medicines when he advocated a method to rid honeybees of parasites in a Prodigy discussion group.



PHOTO/DCS

TIME LINE



Apple agreed to have its future computers include MS Internet Explorer as the default browser. Mac fanatics considered a Heaven's Gate-type solution.

SEPTEMBER

■ AOL got back at CompuServe for that Super Bowl snipe by acquiring the service's consumer component from WorldCom, the nation's fourth-largest phone company. The move boosted

the burgeoning AOL subscriber base by another 30 percent.

■ MSNBC canceled the two-time Emmy award-winning show "The Site," claiming the network wanted to concentrate on hard news content. Thousands wrung their mice



over the fate of host Soledad O'Brien, considered by some to be the Internet's first star.

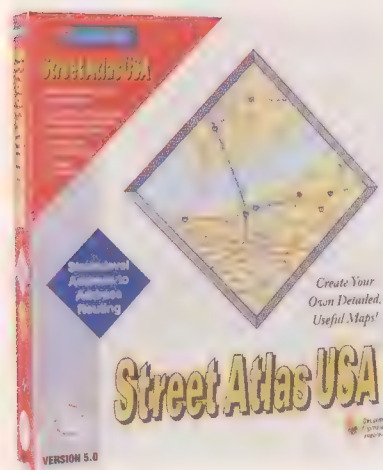
■ "ER" used the Web to hype and enhance its first live broadcast, with a live Webcast and chats, 3-D set tours, and streaming video feeds, attracting millions of users.

TIME LINE PHOTOS: MATT DRUDGE; AP/MICHAEL CAULF; ELD GUARDS: CHAMBERLYN ALWA; GLOBE; ER DOCTORS: CHRIS HASTON/NBC PHOTO

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New Version
OCT. 1997



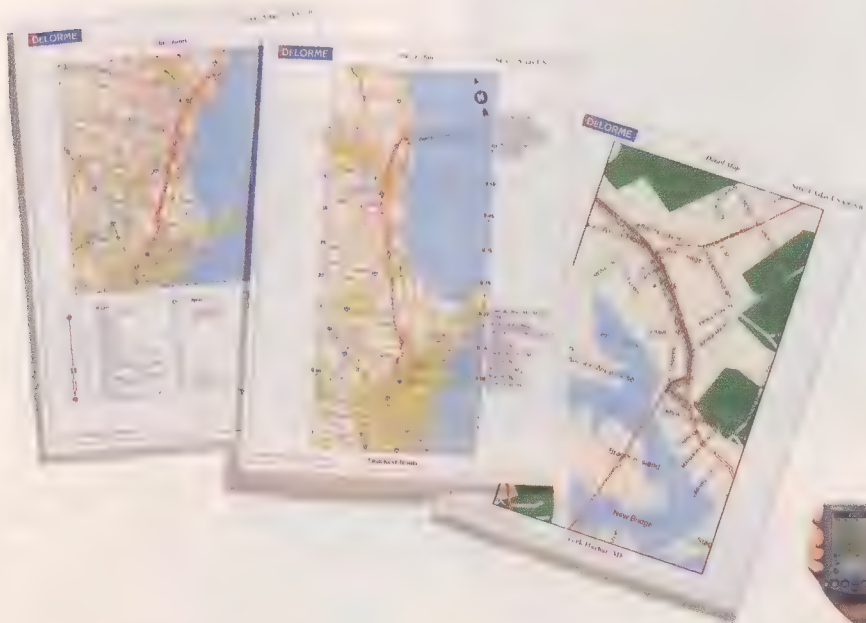
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Get Your Ya-Yas Online

The elderly Rolling Stones survived their midlife crises with a summer press conference Webcast under the Brooklyn Bridge and Web-based concert ticket sales. You make a grown man cry.



AP PHOTO/MARK LENNHAN

Reach Out and Scare Someone

A wave of Net bashing, set off by the murder of an 11-year-old New Jersey boy by a teenager who hung out in chat rooms, culminated in a "20/20" report warning America that "the most depraved people are reaching into your living room and touching your child." The teenager was dubbed the "cyberpsycho" by the tabloids. Calmer reports pointed out that he apparently snapped after his participation in the police-led apprehension of an older man with whom he had been involved a year earlier.

From Porn To Suicide Cults,
The Net Looks Nasty

INTERNET-ADDICT MOM LOSES CUSTODY

*Seductive Drug Culture
Flourishes On Internet*

10 THINGS THEY HAVEN'T BLAMED ON THE NET—YET

The troubles in Northern Ireland

El Niño

Deterioration of the ozone layer

Deterioration of blockbuster movie plots

Gang warfare in the inner cities

Waiters reciting menus

John Travolta's overexposure

The year's rash of mad bites

Don King's hair

Lousy TV ratings—oops, they *have* blamed the Net, haven't they?

Yakkety-Iraq!

"The [Internet is the] end of civilizations, and ethics...one of the American means to enter every house in the world. They want to become the only source for controlling human beings in the new electronic village."

—EDITORIAL, in Al-Jumhuriya, government newspaper of Iraq



AP PHOTO/NA

Moe than Meets the Eye?

The Three Stooges' heirs filed suit against a California man, claiming his Stooges Web site amounted to copyright infringement. The heirs also claimed that a button labeled Soitenly! was an unauthorized use of Curly's trademark pronunciation of the word *certainly*. The Webmaster refused to issue the called-for response: "Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk."



FOTO FANTASIES

Now They Have More Time to Raise Taxes

The Senate approved a measure to remove computer games from all government computers and to bar the government from buying new computers with games already installed. Cited as problems: Solitaire and Global Thermo-Nuclear War. Sen. Lauch Faircloth (R-N.C.) said it would "save millions, if not billions, in lost productivity."

My E-Mail Crashed and Ate My Homework

A recent Campus Computing Project survey reported that of 605 institutions polled, nearly 33 percent of their courses used e-mail, up from 25 percent last year. At private universities, the percentage of courses using e-mail jumped to 60 percent.

96
TIME LINE

SEPTEMBER continued

■ In addition to Slurpees, 7-Eleven stores in Seattle began to offer Internet access to anyone with a laptop and 35 cents an hour.

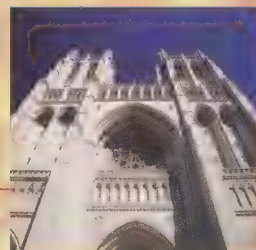


■ Faced with the threat of a boycott, officials at America Online agreed to take down a Web site hosted by an AOL member containing the artwork and musings of two convicted serial killers, including a "how-to" manual on mass murder.

OCTOBER

■ Microsoft announced that 1 million copies of its new browser, IE 4.0, were downloaded during its first 48 hours of availability.

■ Organizers of the "Houses of Worship" database, a



group of Christian leaders with faith in the Internet, unveiled a plan to provide every church in the world with its own Web site.

■ The Justice Department took Microsoft to court for threatening computer manufacturers who remove the



Yakkety-Yak!

Gates conceded that...he prefers magazines the way they come in the mail, and he cannot read anything longer on his computer screen than a three-page memo.

—BILL GATES, *paraphrased in the press*

"Now he tells us."

—MICHAEL KINSLEY, *editor of Slate, Microsoft's*



Those Koi Can Keep You Busy

Pamela Lee made all kinds of news this year: as robbery victim when someone stole a very personal videotape and posted it on the Internet; as court victor in a suit over how much (or how little) nudity she was willing to show in a movie; and as family Net maven when she told *Yahoo! Internet Life* that, among other things, she used the Internet to research sites devoted to koi ponds.



USA ROSE GLOE

Rabbit Online

John Updike, who once referred to words on a screen as "just another passing electronic wriggle," sold his prose to Web bookseller Amazon.com for a story-writing contest. Updike began the story, "Murder Makes the Magazine," and thousands of people vied to add paragraphs each week. Forty-four people won \$1,000, and Updike finished the story.

Tune In, Drop Dead, Live On

Psychedelic guru Timothy Leary died more than a year ago, following an online death watch, and his ashes were scattered in space. But his colorful Web site (www.leary.com) lived after him and even thrived, garnering a number of Cool Site awards. Christopher Graves performs Webmaster/caretaker duties for the site, adding book excerpts from Douglas Rushkoff and John Perry Barlow, as well as selling videos, books, and even T-shirts to help fund the site's continuing postmortem life.



AP PHOTO/REIL

87

Percentage of all e-mail that arrives at its destination in less than 5 minutes

34

Percentage of chat-room participants who say they are 100 percent honest during chats

Yakkety-Yak!



"Trying to assess the true importance and function of the Net now is like asking the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk if they were aware of the potential of American Airlines Advantage Miles."

—BRAN FERREN, *futurist and chief Disney "Imagineer"*

"I do know how to type. I am not good at the mouse. People of a certain age do not have very good eye-hand coordination."

—MADELINE ALBRIGHT, *Secretary of State, on her*

IFG

Hang On, Help's on the Way

With a computer, a phone, and a fax machine, Texan Jim Reed kept a Pittsburgh, Pa., woman he met online long enough to thwart her suicide attempt.

www.P.J.R.com

NetGuide (print),
The Net (for now),
Websight (outta),
Internet Underground (sob!),
Great Britain's **Wired UK** (ta-ta!)
PLUS: The Stupendous S-Site
Shakeout: Spiv, Spanq, The
Spot. They are survived by fellow S-Sites: Swoon, Salon, Slate, and of course, Stick (www.zdnet.com/yil/content/depts/stick/stiq.html).

PHOTODISC

Internet Explorer browser from the desktops of systems sold with Windows preinstalled.

NOVEMBER

■The judge in the sensational trial of British nanny Louise Woodward announced a Net landmark: He declared he

would release his decision first online. On the day, a glitch prevented it (natch!), but a precedent was set.

■The Web wins, Part 1: AOL began an early rollout of version 4.0, software that integrates the Web more than ever into its content.



DECEMBER

■The Web wins, Part 2: CompuServe integrated its content into the Web with its new C service.

■World AIDS Day inspired the first e-march on Washington.

■Projected number of Net

users by the end of 1997: 63 million, 51 million of them on the World Wide Web.





LOOKING THROUGH THEIR CRYSTAL BALLS

Predictions '98

HERE'S OUR VERSION OF THE PSYCHIC FRIENDS NETWORK: PREDICTIONS BY THE NET-SAVVY



"I PREDICT SOMEONE WILL INVENT A TECHNOLOGY that allows victims of spam to retaliate. If scientists can put a landing craft on Mars, surely they can find a way to send lethal doses of electricity through the Net to those who deserve it most. I know I'd pay \$29.95 for a product like that."—SCOTT ADAMS, *creator of "Dilbert"* (www.dilbert.com)

"IN THE COMING YEAR, THE ROLE FOR VIDEO and audio will be better integrated into the

medium. Outside of the United States, usage will pick up steam, as Europe and Asia get online, making the Net truly international. Big brands will get even bigger."—MARLEEN MCDANIEL, *CEO and president of Wire Networks Inc.* (www.women.com)

"(1) WEB AD DOLLARS WILL QUADRUPE IN '98. (2) Most content sites will die away, unless they figure out how to make money from transactions.

(3) Web commerce will explode.
(4) IBM or AT&T will buy Netscape.
(5) Apple will hire a CEO and Steve Jobs will promptly fire him."—RICH KARLGAARD, *editor of Forbes ASAP* (www.forbes.com/asap/current)

"I EXPECT INTERNET ADVERTISING TO MOVE from tests in 1997 to real budgets. Commerce winners: travel tickets, car purchases, stock brokerages. In terms of shake-outs, I expect MSN to continue to languish. Very few services or content areas have found much of an audience for anything but e-mail and chat. That leaves very few companies leading categories. I believe the prize for first place will vastly exceed second. Winners, in my view, include AOL, Yahoo!, CNET, and E*Trade."—KEITH BENJAMIN, *Internet analyst, Robertson & Stevens and Co.* (www.4tn.com)

"1998 WILL BE THE YEAR OF WEB/DISC HYBRIDS, as publishers realize that (a) it's a lot easier to charge people for shrink-wrapped product than online access and (b) the broadband future is a ways off, and until then it makes no sense to shove huge wads of multimedia through the phone lines. 1998 is the year stored media and online media start shacking up."—J.C. HERZ, *author of Joystick Nation* (www.pathfinder.com/@01WGPQUAZy0HNS/twep/Little_Brown/authors/jc_herz/joystick_nation)

"1998 WILL BE THE YEAR OF FURTHER CONSOLIDATION on the Web. For the few independent Web sites that have established a foothold—Feed, Women's Wire, CNET, HotWired, Salon—the future looks brighter; but it will be harder for original sites to break through the static. In general, media titans will rule the day...offering more of the usual formulaic pabulum now available in every other medium. The forces of creative independence should push back whenever possible, to make sure the Web lives up to the dazzle of its original promise."—DAVID TALBOT, *editor and CEO of Salon* (www.salonmagazine.com)

"THE WORLD WILL BE GRIPPED BY A WIDESPREAD infectious malady which doctors will call False Internet Nostalgia Syndrome. Victims will compulsively reminisce with each other



about how great the Web was in the simple years past, when fewer people and sites were online. Meanwhile, while surfing in private, everyone will basically say what they've said since the start: 'This thing is slow, and it sucks'."—WALTER MILLER, *cracker columnist, Netly News* (cgi.pathfinder.com/netly)

"(1) INTERNET TELEPHONY WILL EXPAND.

(2) Network security will get a boost with increased standardization.

(3) Internet fax will grow in importance.

(4) Quality-of-service will become a differentiating mantra."—VINTON G. CERF, "*Father of the Net*" and a senior vice president at MCI (www.mci.com)

"SO MUCH DEPENDS UPON WHEN THE Di sightings begin."—CARL STEADMAN, *editor of Suck* (www.suck.com)

"THE NET WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, AND SO will the conflicts—12-year-olds will battle multinational corporations, Net Nazis will fight hackers, governments will have it out with activists. For a time, the wide-open environment of the Net will force opposing sides to listen to each other. Once they all get tired of that, the Net will factionalize and break apart so that, similar to TV, we never have to deal with things that disturb us or make us think too much. We'll have the military Net, the children's Net, the black Net, the white Net, and on and on. The days

1998 PREDICT-O-RAMA

BY MARK GLAZER

MICROSOFT BUYS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF Justice for 10,000 shares of common stock, settling all grievances. The DOJ Web page will heretofore be optimized for Internet Explorer.

JEANNE DIXON'S WEB SITE WILL COME BACK to life and cut a deal with Snap! Online.

JENNY MCCARTHY'S SHOW "JENNY" will be dropped by NBC but picked up by Microsoft Network. Jenny will personally spit on your e-mail.

THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL WEBCAST NEW campaign-finance-reform hearings, but there will be a public outcry when people start having cybersex in the attached online forums.


THANKS TO HUGE CASH INFUSIONS, YAHOO! will buy NBC, Excite will buy ABC, Lycos will buy CBS, and Fox will buy Infoseek, which will stay online part-time.

HOTCPU INC. TAKES FREE E-MAIL SERVICE one step further by offering free computers, which will be plastered with advertising on every flat surface. The Intel jingle will be heard every time it boots up.

where we actually had to listen to our enemies will become a memory, and finally a myth."—EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN, *publisher of 2600 Magazine* (www.2600.com)

"I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF CYBERSpace, but for me 1998 means more free time to design Web pages!"—DAVID LETTERMAN, *host of "The Late Show with David Letterman"* (www.cbs.com/latenight/lateshow)

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE TOLD THAT FREEDOM is a bad idea. The Net will be blamed for more kiddie porn, terrorism, and loss of privacy. Those who remember that these things predate home computers (and maybe even Pong) will get blue in the face to keep the future getting better."—PENN JILLETTE, *magician with Penn & Teller* (www.sincity.com)

"WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO COME ONLINE IN droves, dominating the medium and integrating it into their everyday lives—research for a new career move, communicating with the family, finding consumer information to do comparative shopping, and beginning to buy products online. The Net is the killer app for the smart and busy woman. There will be a glut of women-targeted Web sites, and consumer advertisers will flock to the new medium to reach more women in new ways."—ALIZA SHERMAN, *president of Cybergrl Inc.* (www.cybergrrl.com) 

LAST YEAR'S "Y-LIFE" PREDICTIONS: HOW'D THEY DO?

MOST ACCURATE PREDICTIONS

"We expect to see popular Web pages enhanced with video, sound, and programming. In short, we expect pages to come alive."—BILL GATES

"The Internet will...more than double...in total traffic. During 1997, more real-time applications will be introduced, including multiuser games, telephony, radio, and video, as well as

varieties of multiway conferencing."—VINTON G. CERF, MCI

YUP

"In 1997 the Internet will continue to expand and diversify, reaching more people, businesses, and classrooms than ever before."—VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

NOT QUITE

"Pick one: Prodigy or CompuServe won't be around by year's

end."—ADAM SCHOENFELD, *VP, Jupiter Communications*

YUP

"I think we will see many more athletes and celebrities launching their own Web sites, and doing more with them."—GRANT HILL, *basketball player, Detroit Pistons*

WRONG!

"People will get bored with surfing in 1997 because of both the

Net's performance and the fact that it is boring. We'll turn more to smart-agent software and delegate our use of the Web."

—NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE, *MIT Media Lab*

BEST PREDICTION

"I predict that at this time next year, everyone's going to be wasting brain cells guessing what 1998 holds in store."—JIM NELSON, *e-zine Ad Nauseam*

anatomy of a web site
www.gutenberg.net

project gutenberg

by derek a. baker

In the galaxy of Web site awards, we offer our five stars just 12 times a year. Here's this month's in-depth look at a Web site or service that is truly distinctive

able to use the Internet to change the world and have access to the greatest thinkers in history, all at the click of a mouse? Who's putting this incredible library together?

Some guy in a basement in Urbana, Illinois, that's who. In fact, for 26 years (probably before you were using a computer, depending on who you are), Michael Hart has been diligently posting some of the greatest thoughts from the greatest writers of all time onto the Internet for anyone to read.

Project Gutenberg began at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, when Hart was in his twenties. He hung around some folks who were research assistants, trying to figure out how to use the mainframe computer that had just been hooked up to the Internet—back in 1971. Hart became the hundredth or so person on the Net.

"When I typed in the Declaration of Independence, we had been on the Internet for five days. I said, 'Here, let's post

So, just where is this vast library you expected to find on the Internet? After you've seen the stock quotes, the sports scores, more tech news than you could ever care to read, and cheese-cake...where's the stuff that's really the reason why you got an online account in the first place? Didn't that phone company ad on television make it sound as if you'd be

the Declaration of Independence and send a note that says here's how you download it.' Nobody knew what could be done with computers. They looked at me funny, and I said, 'Oh, you wait! We'll put up Shakespeare and the Bible on here and everything.' They said, 'No, no, no!' Because Shakespeare and the Bible were beyond the total disk capacity of the whole mainframe. We had two 5-meg hard drives the size of washing machines, and both of those files are bigger than 5 megs."

Jump forward to 1997. Hart is now in his early fifties, and just a few months ago, he posted the 1,000th e-text to the Project Gutenberg site: Dante's *Divine Comedy*. From his creaky little ISP in Illinois—he got kicked off the University of Illinois site a few years ago—the files will get copied to other Web and FTP sites in the U.S. and then in Europe, and so on around the world. And free information, classic novels, political texts, and the greatest thinkers in history get brought to the 20 million host computers that make up the Internet and to the millions and millions of users who can download these texts and start reading. Free of charge. No subscriptions, no download fees...take it, read it, change the world.

Project Gutenberg has been hailed as one of the most important projects ever to appear on the Internet, which is surprising because its basic product isn't a whole lot different in 1997 than it was back in 1971, before there was a World Wide Web, before hardly anyone had an e-mail address. True, Hart is no longer limited to capital letters, as he once was on his old teletype machine. And he's now helped by approximately 1,000 volunteers around the world who "hit libraries and bookstores and scan and ship books around to each other and send files to each other and proof-read for each other and do copyright research and all sorts of other junk. I keep very close touch with the volunteers;



they are our roots; the mirror sites are the branches, which are much more at random."

But don't ask him exactly how many Web and FTP sites around the world copy and post, or "mirror," the Project Gutenberg files. (Despite not knowing, he's able to say confidently: "There are 214 countries on the Internet right now, and I'll bet you you'll have a rough time finding one that didn't have our stuff.")

And because libraries don't keep track of who reads which books and because the vast majority of Project Gutenberg e-texts are downloaded from all those mirror sites around the world, he can't even tell you which book is the most popular—though the first complete novel he digitized, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (e-text number 11), seems to be mentioned more than most of the others. Among those who consider it a favorite is Pietro Di Miceli, who is the Rome, Italy-based Webmaster for the official Gutenberg Web site, which is on a server in Reno, Nevada, despite Hart's own use of an ISP in Urbana, Illinois. Such geographic convolutions are endemic to the Net...but even more so to the network that Project Gutenberg represents.

Even in just the last few months, new sites in Portugal, Taiwan, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, the Czech Republic, and Singapore have begun mirroring the e-texts, bringing *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* to a whole group of people who may have never even heard of it, let alone have read it.

A sample of the other titles—the complete list of all of them is a 500 MB file too large to reprint here—demonstrates the breadth of the project: Willa Cather's *My Antonia* (number 242), Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (number 174), W. Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* (number 351), John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (number 20) and *Paradise Regained* (number 58), Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (number 526), and Kate Douglas Wiggin's *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (number 498). Also remarkable is that many authors have had several of their works digitized. For example, the project includes more than 30 of Robert Louis Stevenson's works on its virtual shelves.

You may note one similarity among them: Nearly all of these books were written prior to 1922. Under current copyright law, books become public domain after 75 years. (Some of Project Gutenberg's texts are copyrighted and used by

permission, or are government documents.) Proposed congressional legislation by Rep. Sonny Bono (R-California) would add 20 years to the current copyright limit. Hart strongly opposes this legislation, as you might imagine, given the current rate of information growth.

"If information is doubling every 2 years," Hart says, "then a 20-year copyright extension wipes out 99.98 percent, plus a little bit, of everything that would be in the public domain during that 20 years." Unfortunately, losing 20 years of information in the public domain is a more distant threat to Project Gutenberg than a more immediate concern—how to stay financed.

Hart plans to be around on the project at least until the end of 2001, for when he has set a goal of having 10,000 e-texts online. But he has little money to support himself, and the project may run out in just a few months, despite his scrounging garage sales and dumpsters for old books and used computer equipment. He would eventually like to see 1 million books online but knows that he'll need added support.

Finding that support—in dollars or in kind—is one of the reasons he's going on the road soon to start schmoozing. But one of his primary tenets for Project Gutenberg holds that there should be no limit to its distribution:

no limit to the number of downloads someone might make, no limit to the number of mirror sites. A lot of potential sponsors, whether they are universities, foundations, or seemingly altruistic companies, would like to have some sort of control, whether in content or access, over the projects they fund. Therefore, support may be tougher to find than one might think, though recent funding from Carnegie-Mellon University has given him renewed hope.

"If you want to change the world, you can't do it through 'limited distribution.' Things that change the world either cost billions of dollars or they have to be something that can be passed through sneaker net," Hart says, referring to the old-fashioned network where somebody carries something next door to someone else. "Caesar changed the world; it cost billions of dollars. Christ changed the world; it was basically sneaker net." Hart's operation, it may be surmised, is sneaker net all the way. Pretty ambitious, but as he admits himself: "I'm interested in changing the world."



**Old Way/Net Way...Just as the press
Gutenberg built preserved the
classics, so Project Gutenberg
aims to preserve literature itself**



A YEAR OF STARS

We began in 1996, before we went monthly, by giving five-star site awards to CNN Interactive, Rocktopolis, Parent Soup, Discovery, Epicurious, and ESPN SportsZone. Here's a recap of 1997's dazzling dozen, with updates—the Net never rests

BY DEREK A. BAKER

ESPN SportsZone

espn.sportszone.com

Though hardly alone in the wide world of sports Web sites, ESPN SportsZone still delivers some of the most com-



plete sports coverage around—just as it did when we awarded five stars to the site last January. And people still seem willing to fork out the bucks for a subscription to all the site's premium services (including enhanced stats and NBA LiveAudio radio broadcasts). In early April, Disney bought a majority stake in Starwave, SportsZone's creator (Mickey's kingdom already owned partner ESPN), but Web success isn't automatic, despite such brand-name advantage: CBS SportsLine defeated the site in the Best Sports Site Playoff in our November Wide World Web of Sports Special Issue.

Mayo Health 0@sis

www.mayo.ivl.com

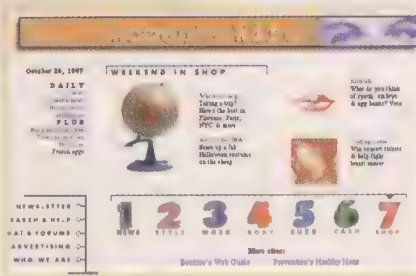
Our twelfth five-star award of the year went to the site from the Mayo Clinic

that's about as much fun as a prostate exam but whose information could be almost as valuable. Despite the site's slow servers, we cited the drug and disease databases as among the best reference sources online.

Women's Wire

www.women.com

Every day, work, cash, style, news, and entertainment "buzz" get put under the Women's Wire lens and gain an informative-but-fun perspective that's geared to women, but guys will appreciate much of its non-nonsense content as well. Since our examination last February, Wire



Networks (the parent company) has also created Beatrice's Web Guide (www.bguid.com).

Expedia.com

expedia.com

Full travel reservations—tickets, rooms, ground transport—for just about anywhere you want to go make



Expedia.com an excellent choice for anybody who needs to get from point A to point B. Other sites, such as Travelocity, have improved their services in the past few months, and online travel reservations have become as much a commodity as any other item you might buy online. But expert design, thoughtful marketing and follow-through, and a link to the well-written Web-based adventure travel magazine Mungo Park make Expedia.com a first-class experience.

Salon

www.salonmagazine.com

People who actually read online read Salon. Cultural critiques, personal revelations, and some of the most intelligent discussion boards on the Web combine to give Salon pride of place in the realm of literate Web sites. Other writerly sites on the Web work hard to compete, but for every Slate article about the politics of meaning, you'll find five articles on Salon about media orgies, cultural bedfellows, and, yes,

sex. Let's see, you've got 10 minutes to read something, and you'd like to wake up: wonk Jacob Weisberg on campaign

SALON
MAGAZINE
MONDAY, OCT 27
MILLION-A-DOLLAR Days to riches to reality
HOW to wring more money out of your boss
MILK Is This Brownie overpaid? Little Gals on magazine racks
FISH Why someone so eager doesn't want to be
MOM Home to Van Hise: a maternal guess
TICK or treat for Buffy the Vampire Slayer
MUSIC Tom Tomlinson: Deep insights

WELCOME TO SALON MONEY WEEK
CINTRA WILSON
BAD RISK
MY LIFE AS A MOOCHIE
ON OUR LIST
GREAT TARGET
Fight
BORDERS
free email for the internet

finance reform (Slate) or vamp Camille Paglia on Mother Teresa (Salon)? If this were an exit poll, you'd say Weisberg. And you'd be lying.

The Dominion

www.scifi.com

Speculative fiction—as science fiction prefers to be known—receives an extensive, catholic approach at this online arm of cable TV's Sci-Fi Channel. In addition to Sci-Fi shows and stars, The Dominion covers the wider world of books and comics, hosts a collaborative novel, and delivers a roundup of weekly sci-fi news, irrespective of brand. Recently, it even



used a satellite to beam fans' messages out into the black holes of space...just like when you e-mail a request for vacation time.

HotWired

www.hotwired.com

Long after the Net implodes and digital culture gets replaced by something organic and stinky, HotWired will still be plugging along, preaching the binary gospel. Long on cynical, cyberhip attitude and screeching with

bells and whistles, HotWired continues to be the site that other sites eventually get around to emulating in one way or another. These guys invented the banner ad. What further qualifications for a five-star site do you need?

Tripod

www.tripod.com

Tripod wants to be to twentysomethings what Modern Maturity is to the retired set. Its oh-so-subtle plan to take over this market consists of friendly, basic information on all the stuff that affects the postcollegiate crowd: careers, living space, health, relation-



ships, and cheap fun and games. In addition, it will host your home page for free. Though everyone else who hopes to market to this audience is steeped in attitude, Tripod forsakes "smart" and "savvy" for "real." It has been rewarded with a devoted audience.

Smithsonian

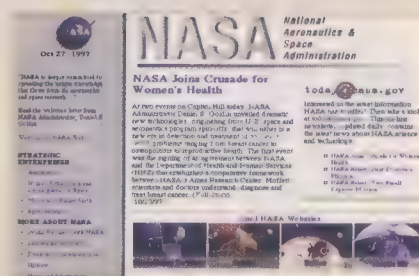
www.si.edu

In March, we lauded "the Nation's Attic" for putting together a site that is as hodgepodge, varied, and educational as are the 16 museums of the Smithsonian Institution itself. Recent additions include a new home page for the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum and an expanded online exhibition of photographer Mathew Brady's work.

NASA

www.nasa.gov

Besides Bill Clinton, does anyone who works for the government enjoy the job as much as the rocket scientists of NASA? The almost adolescent



enthusiasm you see at televised briefings comes through loud and clear on the thousands of pages, images, and information they beam down to the NASA site(s).

Addicted to Noise

www.addict.com

Rock 'n' roll ain't pretty, and neither is this site that pumps out the daily Music News of the World and reviews (with sound clips) of just about every new album you could hope to buy. And you're in luck, because they're more than willing to sell those albums to you, too (through CDNow). A sister site of SonicNet, which received a coveted five-star award from us in 1996, Addicted to Noise puts out a stronger signal than the prettier MTV Online.

E! Online

www.eonline.com

E! Online could have taught Nero a fiddle lick or two. As described in our



November issue, the celebrity obsession of America in the late 1990s has found its poet laureate in this site devoted to all things Hollywood, that media Babylon. Breathless headlines, gossipy dirt, and irreverent insider humor make E! Online a fun electronic scandal sheet.

Surfing with the Bulls



Look, Ma,
No Broker!

A lot of online investors were jamming their mouse buttons in frustration, unable to connect last October when the markets dropped sharply and the New York Stock Exchange had its first-ever billion-trade day. But months earlier, I got a taste of what to expect when my own enthusiasm for online investing was soaring as high as the summertime Dow.

It was the third Friday last July, and I was at work, sneaking peeks at the stock quotes on my computer screen as \$1,200 worth of options on Sun Microsystems stock melted into nothing. The pricey derivatives gave me the right to buy 500 shares of the computer maker's stock at a certain cost—\$45—but only before that day's close of business. It wasn't going well. The company had just issued a stunning Internet-propelled earnings report (15.5 percent increase in revenues! projected annual growth of 30 percent!) that topped 10 days of breakaway highs in the tech stocks. Despite this, plus the Dow's own effortless gust past the 8,000 milestone two days earlier, Sun stubbornly refused to shine. A 5 percent increase in the price of the underlying stock would double my day's bet, but the market wouldn't budge no matter how many times I clicked Netscape's Reload button. I bailed when I got back from lunch, finding someone to pay \$345.98, or 75 cents more per share for what I'd just spent more than \$2 per share on the day before.

by Nathaniel Wice

I was mad, and not just because Sun refused to brighten when I said so. For six months since opening an account with the deep-discount cyberbroker E*Trade, I'd been making increasingly manic, low-ante, high-risk bets on the movement of the tech stocks. Not every play paid off, but it was good money while the market was making its unprecedented advance, with cheap commissions that at least made it possible to cash in on the daily movement of securities. I felt as if I'd broken into the big boys' game, where you finally do get to buy low and sell high.

I got the idea to rush into Sun earlier in the week, watching the prices of other tech stocks take off, and apparently, I wasn't alone. Intel trading on Tuesday set the record for single-day volume in equity options at the American Stock Exchange, and E*Trade's own stock was surging following its report that the rate of new account sign-ups continued to accelerate past 400 per day. Thanks to E*Trade's Briefing.com partner site (try the unprotected URL www.briefing.com/etrade), I knew that Sun was announcing its results that Thursday night. I resolved to follow the Intel logic and bet on Sun, looking to triple my money in one day.

First thing Thursday morning, I placed the Sun options order from home. It took less than 3 minutes, including the *pishing* delay of the dial-up modem connection, but I was surprised to see that the buy didn't execute immediately. Strange, I thought—a similar stock order is

Online trading is supposed to be as simple as the click of a mouse. But in a volatile stock market, how well does it work?



usually filled in seconds. I left for the office, where there's a full-time Internet hookup, expecting to see the order completed by the time I scrolled down to my E*Trade bookmark. Still no confirmation. This wasn't good, since the underlying Sun stock was advancing as the coming earnings report excited other buyers. Scared that my bet was going to cost more when it finally went through—and annoyed that I'd missed out on the morning's rise because the order hadn't been filled—I canceled and decided to take a break from the legalized gambling to do some actual work. It was not the first time that I'd reversed an order before execution.

It was later that Thursday afternoon, when I checked my E*Trade portfolio again, that I learned to my surprise that the options trade had gone through. The time stamp for the confirmation was just under two hours after my cancellation. No fair, I thought, even as I fretted while on hold with E*Trade's customer service about whether I actually wanted the options. I explained the problem to an E*Trade rep who said that it would take a day or two to see if the trade could indeed be "busted." Heavy volume had overloaded E*Trade's system, and it seems I was lucky even to be able to get through to the Web site. "What are you talking about?" I asked. "These options expire tomorrow."

Soon I was speaking with a supervisor, who told me that I should know better than to rely on the Internet for day trades. "Make those orders via a live broker," he said, undermining his company's entire reason for being. I took it in stride, though. After all, I wasn't just an E*Trade customer—I was also a shareholder, and by early October, the stock was up more than 200 percent since the previous spring.

I wish I could say the same for the end of October. The July experience prepared me—kind of—for the crunch when it came to the week of Halloween. It was the Tuesday morning after the market's forced early close down 554 points, and E*Trade was already way off its absurdly high \$47 peak following the price cuts of competitors, such as the 900-pound gorilla Fidelity. Panicking slightly, I decided this online trading is not going to be so popular when everyone's losing money, and I went to take the 50 percent profit that still remained in my E*Trade shares. It was impossible to reach E*Trade's Web site—as it probably would have been difficult to reach any broker that morning—so for the first time, I pulled out the E*Trade instructions for placing automated phone orders. After 5 solid minutes of redialing, I got through and navigated my way through the Touch-Tone version of virtual reality. Unfortunately, this was one trade that went through—I sold E*Trade for \$27 on a day when the stock closed over \$30. Again it felt as if the cut-rate execution had something to do with my minor role in breaking the fall of other day-traders. So much for my latest cyberpower trip. When it comes to be High Noon on Wall Street, the Internet is no Quake-fueled, turn-of-the-millennium, laser-guided Gatling gun. It's a silicon slingshot. Aim carefully.

Nathaniel Wice is coauthor of Alt.Culture (www.altculture.com).

Do Your Own Research

Some online brokers play up the fact that they provide customers with access to investment research. But with few exceptions, much of that research can be obtained elsewhere and isn't substantial enough to justify the relatively higher commissions. Here is a list of Web sites providing free (or cheap) research that every e-trader should bookmark.

THE MOTLEY FOOL

Twice-daily market reports and message boards, plus in-depth analysis of growth stocks—all done in a witty, hipper-than-thou style. The Brothers Fool, David and Tom Gardner, back up all the talk with a real-money portfolio that's up more than 200 percent during the past three years. Free. www.fool.com

STOCKTOOLS

Best free site for charting your investments. Pick any stock and get a summary of the day's trading activity, plus a historical graph that compares your company's performance to industry average and four other stocks of your choosing. Free. www.stocktools.com

QUICKEN.COM

Breaking news on mutual funds and a portfolio manager that lets you track the value of your funds, plus a screening feature that lets you filter through 5,000 funds to find those that meet your exacting standards. Free. www.quicken.com

MARKET GUIDE

Want a quick fix on that "hot" stock your brother-in-law is touting? Get news, quotes, and a capsule profile of nearly 10,000 companies. For a few bucks, you can also get in-depth analysis, such as earnings estimates from Wall Street analysts. Free. www.marketguide.com

MARKETSCOPE@HOME

Running market commentary from Standard & Poor's analysts, plus buy-sell-or-hold recommendations on more than 1,000 stocks. \$13 per month.

www.stockinfo.standardpoor.com/mks.htm

BRIEFING.COM

Wall Street-caliber research on stocks and mutual funds, and some of the best analysis on foreign exchange and the fixed-income markets. \$25 per month. www.briefing.com

—Dean Foust



New Kids on the Street

What is it about America's growing infatuation with e-trading? Many Web users might think twice before shopping for clothes, booking a trip, or even sending flowers over the Internet. But they show no such hesitation about using one of the dozens of cyberbrokers that enable them to trade stocks, mutual funds, and other securities over the Web. Forrester Research Inc., a Cambridge, Mass.-based consulting firm, estimates that the number of online accounts has doubled just during the past year to 3 million, this group collectively entrusting \$120 billion to cyberbrokers such as Ameritrade and E*Trade. And Forrester projects that in five years, more than 14 million investors have nearly \$688 billion managed across cyberspace. At this rate, how long till Wall Street is renamed Web Street?

by Dean Foust

Maybe the attraction is that though you might shave a buck or two off a few posies by ordering them over the Web, the savings from using an e-broker can be enormous: Buying 500 shares of Netscape through a broker at Merrill Lynch can set you back more than \$300, and \$144 if you do it from a branch of Charles Schwab. But punch in that same order through Schwab's Web site and you'll pay \$29.95 at most—a seeming bargain until you realize that Ameritrade, Datek Online, and Scottrade are waging a bitter price war that has dropped commissions to less than \$10. Given the cutthroat pressures to offer the cheapest commissions, Ameritrade's chief executive, Joe Ricketts, recently joked, "By next year, we'll be paying investors to trade."

But somewhere deep in your brain that little voice of doubt is whispering, "It sounds too good to be true." Indeed, how can these firms charge so little and still provide investors with a good service? Are these new online brokers every bit the bargain they appear? And are they even worthwhile, given the flood of bad publicity e-brokers received for their dismal performance during the October stock-market crisis? The answer, in a word, is yes—but only if you understand what you're getting into.

Make no mistake: E-brokers aren't for everyone. Despite their best attempts to add bells and whistles—mostly free research and spiffy price charts—online brokers are largely order takers. If you're a financial neophyte who needs the handholding that a broker, financial planner, or other pro can provide, the Web isn't for you. But if you're the savvy sort who prefers to conduct your own research and then make your own investments, using a Web broker can

reduce the amount you pay in commissions by hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars at Merrill Lynch.

So how do they do it for \$9.95? Part of the secret is that the online discounters, just like their big Wall Street rivals, make money off you in ways you probably don't know about. For instance, since all brokers aren't legally required to record your trade for three days, brokers—much like banks—sit on the interest, or "float," during that period. And since most Web traders are aggressive by nature, cyberbrokers also rake in big bucks by making "margin" loans that allow these traders to invest borrowed money as well. And then there's the income from what's known as "payment for order flow." That's a legalized kickback of \$5 to \$10 for most orders that brokers receive for agreeing in advance to steer your order to one of the many "market makers" who actually provide the service of matching buyers with sellers.

But the cost advantage for most of the online discounters stems from a simple fact: Few orders are ever touched by human hands. With most orders processed instead by computers, the payroll and overhead of these discounters are much lower than those of Wall Street's dinosaurs. Merrill Lynch has more than 46,000 brokers, research analysts, and traders around the world to feed, but Datek Online handles more than 11,000 trades a day with a staff of just 100. "People ask me how we can make money at \$9.99," says Alex Goor, executive vice president of Datek Online. "I like to turn the question around: How has everyone else gotten away with charging so much? Because we have a completely electronic model, we can make a profit at \$9.99."

Before you commit to one of the deep discounters such as Datek, realize that you're making some significant trade-offs: Just like Burger King, Datek and the rest of the \$9.95 crowd keep costs low by offering a fast-food-type menu—often just handling stocks, options, and maybe a few mutual funds. By contrast, many of the firms that charge more—such as Schwab and Jack White & Company—also provide a broader array of investments, including thousands of mutual funds, corporate and government bonds, and even commodities, precious metals, and foreign securities (albeit not always online). "We've never tried to compete on price alone because we know our customers want service as well," says Schwab spokesman Tom Taggart. "We've positioned ourselves not as the cheapest, but as a good value relative to the service and brand."

Be forewarned that some of the deep discounters are also notorious for scrimping on service. Some firms, such as Scottrade, are notorious for taking days and weeks to answer e-mail queries from customers. Getting a simple confirmation—by e-mail or phone—can take hours. And a few firms, such as Ceres (now part of Ameritrade) and E*Trade, have

How can these firms
charge so little
and still provide
investors with
a good service?

experienced highly publicized episodes when their Web servers failed for hours or even days at a stretch—leaving more than a few customers unable to place trades. And despite such erratic service, some of these same firms are the first to nick you with hidden fees that can drive your total costs well above those dirt-cheap rates.

The worst offenders, perhaps not surprisingly, are the same brokers—such as Howe Barnes, Pacific, and Scottrade—that trumpet their rock-bottom rates. Scottrade, for instance, will buy those 500 shares of Netscape on the Net for \$9 but will charge \$49.50 if you use a broker and \$44.55 via its Touch-Tone phone service. But oh, if it only stopped there. Want to

transfer a foreign security into your account at Howe Barnes's Net Investor service? That'll cost you \$75. Oh, gee, you haven't generated more than \$100 in commissions in the past year? Sorry, but Howe Barnes charges an "inactivity fee" of \$50. If this gets you so steamed that you want to close your account, better think twice: There's a \$50 "transfer out" fee as well.

What's more, to keep their costs down, some of the cut-rate cyberbrokers don't always give you as much flexibility as the other firms do in terms of how you place your trades. Let's say you just scooped up a few shares of America Online at its current price of \$75. Knowing that the fickle winds can turn on even the best tech stocks, you want to be able to bail out early

How the Sites in This Story Measure Up

Electronic trading co.	Yrs. in bus.	Yrs. on Web	Commissions*		Mutual funds		IRA accounts			Real-time quotes	Acct. minimum
			Online orders	Phone orders	Number avail.	Min. fee	IRAs offered?	Start-up fee?	Annual fee?		
Ameritrade www.ameritrade.com	22	3	\$8 (all)	\$18 (all)	1,600	\$0-\$18	Yes	No	No	\$30/month	\$2,000
Datek Online www.datek.com	27	1	\$10 (all)	\$25 (all)	N/A†	N/A	Yes	\$25	\$40	Free	\$2,000
Discover Brokerage Direct www.dbdirect.com	5	2	\$15 (all)	\$34 (all)	4,000	\$0-\$25	Yes	No	No	Free	\$2,000
DLJdirect www.dljdirect.com	38	1	\$20, \$20, \$60	\$20, \$20, \$60	6,000	\$0-\$35	Yes	No	\$35, or free w/3 trades/yr	100 free with every trade	\$0
e*Schwab www.schwab.com	23	1	\$30, \$30, \$90	\$39, \$135, \$190	1,400	\$31	Yes	No	\$29, or free for \$10,000 accounts	100 free with every trade	\$5,000
E*Trade www.etrade.com	5	2	\$15 listed; \$20 OTC† (all)	\$15 listed; \$20 OTC	2,400	\$0-\$25	No	N/A	N/A	\$30/month	\$1,000
Fidelity Web Xpress personal.fidelity.com/ trade/index.html	16	1	\$29, \$29, \$89	\$35, \$35, \$179	3,500	\$29	Yes	No	No	Free	\$5,000
Jack White & Company www.jackwhiteco.com	24	1	\$25, \$25, \$60	\$33, \$48, \$83	5,800	\$0-\$50	Yes	No	\$35, or free for \$10,000 accounts	N/A	\$5,000
Muriel Siebert www.msiebert.com	30	1	\$25, \$25, \$60	\$38, \$60, \$90 listed; \$38, \$75, \$90 OTC	6,500	\$0-\$35	Yes	No	\$60, or free for \$10,000 accounts	Free	\$10,000
National Discount Brokers www.ndb.com	3	1	\$15 (all)	\$25 (all)	6,000	\$0-\$20	Yes	\$35-\$50	\$35, or free for \$10,000 accounts	Free	\$2,000
The NET Investor www.netinvestor.com	72	3	\$29, \$37, \$74	\$29, \$37, \$74	3,000	\$35-\$60	Yes	\$5	\$0-\$50, depending on trading activity	\$24	\$5,000
Pacific Brokerage www.tradepbs.com	21	1	\$15 (all)	\$29 (all)	N/A	N/A	Yes	\$25	\$40	N/A	\$1,000
Quick & Reilly www.quick-reilly.com	23	1	\$27, \$27, \$67	\$38, \$92, \$124	2,100	\$0-\$25	Yes	No	\$25, or free for \$10,000 accounts	\$30/month	\$500
Scottrade www.scottrade.com	17	1	\$19, \$9, \$9	\$32, \$50, \$160	N/A	N/A	Yes	\$25	\$25, or free for \$10,000 accounts	50 free with every trade	\$0
Wall Street Electronica www.wallstreete.com	6	2	\$20, \$20, \$60	\$28, \$28, \$68	3,000	\$35	Yes	No	\$25	\$20/month	\$5,000
Waterhouse webBroker www.waterhouse.com	18	1	\$25 (all)	\$45 (all)	4,800	\$25	Yes	No	No	100 free per trade, or \$5 for 100	\$5,000

*Commissions are given for minimum, 500@35, and 3,000@12. † N/A: This company does not offer this service. ‡ Listed stocks are any traded on NYSE or ASE. OTC stocks are traded on Nasdaq.

if AOL starts heading south. At most firms, you can place what's known as a "stop limit" order at \$71—a standing order instructing your broker to sell your stock automatically the first time AOL dips below \$71. Sound simple? Not at Datek Online, which unlike other firms doesn't allow its customers to place "stop limit" orders on stocks trading on the New York or American stock exchanges.

Then there's the question of reliability—a real issue after the stock market took a gut-wrenching 554-point nosedive on October 27, 1997, and made a stunning rebound the next day. As investors rushed to check their portfolios or place trades via their Internet broker that Monday and Tuesday, many encountered severe delays in getting through—or couldn't get through at all. Angry investors flooded afterward to the chat rooms and bulletin boards to hurl invective at their e-brokers for their poor performance. "ABSOLUTELY PI**ED!!!!," wrote Rashid Garuba, an E*Trade customer. "Wanted RADAR at 10.25 this AM. That was an hour ago!! I used three lines, to a live broker, online and the phone system. I am still on hold for a live broker! Endless server errors on line. I HATE E#\$%R\$#\$TRADE!"

The problem, say the brokers, was that the number of customers trying to access their Web sites all at once was simply off the charts. The large online brokers, such as E*Trade and e*Schwab, maintain they were able to process all of the orders that got through—but concede there were probably thousands of customers who never got through. Schwab, which normally gets about four million "hits" each day on its Web site, says it recorded 10 million on October 28, 1997. It could have been higher, but Schwab can only accommodate 10,000 users on its Web site at once. "Obviously it wasn't enough," admits Taggart. "But no one could have anticipated Monday and Tuesday." Actually, E*Trade did—and feverishly began adding extra servers the prior weekend and again Monday night in anticipation of heavy demand the next day. And that demand came: E*Trade, which normally handles 24,000 trades a day, executed more than 50,000 orders on Tuesday but left hundreds, if not thousands, of customers like Garuba cooling their heels.

In their defense, the Web brokers fared no worse during the crash than most other brokers: Some Merrill Lynch customers I know are still waiting for a callback from their brokers. And those clients who did reach their brokers later discovered that their orders didn't get executed for hours. Indeed, right after the plunge, Merrill Lynch sheepishly agreed to pay out \$10 million to some 3,000 customers who placed orders that Tuesday morning—but because of a breakdown in Merrill's computer system, didn't get them executed until that afternoon or even the next day. Two other traditional firms, Smith Barney

The problem, say the brokers, was that too many customers were trying to access the Web sites at the same time


and Prudential Securities, agreed to make similar restitution to customers after their computer systems froze up as well. The moral: During a market panic, there are no guarantees you'll reach your broker—regardless of whether the broker is on Wall Street or the Web.

For their part, the Web brokers contend such problems are largely growing pains for an industry that has exploded beyond what anyone could have imagined a few years ago. The cyberbrokers promise that the service and reliability will continue to improve—thanks in part to their ongoing investments in new capacity to handle the growing demands from investors. Consider E*Trade: After

paying \$1.7 million to settle customer complaints when its computers crashed for more than two hours last summer, E*Trade has since spent more than \$50 million to increase its customer service staff fourfold, to nearly 200; add a new backup facility in Rancho Cordova, Calif.; and bring in-house many back-office functions that it had previously farmed out to other firms.

What's more, some of the leading e-brokers are bringing on new services that they hope will take some of the remaining competitive advantages away from the traditional Wall Street houses. Several major online services, including DLJdirect, e*Schwab, and E*Trade, have announced they will let some of their customers in on initial public offerings—a perk long reserved only for Wall Street's most elite. E*Trade's customers will also have access to research from Robertson Stephens's analysts, as well as conferences and company presentations long reserved for the pros.

The most novel idea, however, comes from Jack White & Company: The San Diego, Calif.-based brokerage will soon begin rolling out a innovative, Web-only service that will allow investors looking to buy stocks of smaller companies to match up themselves—and save big by cutting out the middleman. Put in an order to buy or sell a stock, and at the top of every hour that the markets are open, Jack White's computers will sweep through and execute every trade where there's a buyer and seller. The benefit: White then lets the customers split the "spread" between what those market makers would otherwise charge to buy and sell those very same shares—a potential savings that can run into the hundreds of dollars for large orders.

With innovators such as White in the vanguard, there are no limits to the services that the Web brokers can bring to the average investor. For now, however, investors will have to show patience as the new cyberbrokers suffer through their growing pains (and the attention of the SEC). But for investors who shop carefully, Wall Street will never be the same. 

Dean Foust is a correspondent for BusinessWeek.

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SIMPLIFY YOUR WEB ADDRESS

Here's a very neat service: a way of giving your site a new, easy-to-remember name. And it's free. Feed in the URL of your personal page or site, then give it an easy-to-recall (or just plain cool) name, prefaced with *bounce.to*. Let's say your URL is www.highpricedISP.com/~johnsmith. But nobody you know can ever remember it, and all of these people seem to be among the bookmark-challenged. If you were using *bounce.to*, you could tell everybody your page URL is *bounce.to/johnsmith*, or maybe *bounce.to/johnny*, or whatever name or tag you desire. When people type in those words, they will get to your page. All your friends have to remember is

bounce.to and your name, without having to recall your ISP. Also, when you change your ISP, you can change the info on *bounce.to*, but your *bounce.to* ID stays the same—you never have to tell others to change the listing they have for you. Bounce.to a happy camper. www.bounce.to

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE EATING

The Diet Analysis Web Page is a quite remarkable, handy-dandy, interactive, and smart site that asks you to enter the foods you ate today so it can calculate how much of the Recommended Dietary Allowances of essential vitamins, minerals, and protein you took in. Tell Mr. Diet Analysis what (and how much) you ate. (Tip: You have a choice of adding foods by category or typing in the names. You'll save time and grief by typing in.) It'll tell you how much you would have ingested if you'd been good and had more than chips and chocolate, and the percentage of each RDA you ate. For those on special diets, for those concerned about their nutritional intake, and for those just curious to see if they can exist much longer on their diet of Cheez

Doodles, Yodels, and caffeine, this is an excellent tool. dawp.futuresouth.com

STOP DATING THE WRONG PEOPLE

Avoid the heartache of continuous breakups and couplings with obvious-to-everybody-but-you bozos. Rate the body, brain, personality, lifestyle, and other personal qualities of at least



three previous dates who may or may not have told you to drop dead (or vice versa). Click the Submit button (which really should be renamed), and find out which qualities you should look for and avoid in your dates. And the results WILL surprise you.

www.cam.org/~jmauld/English/dateanal.html

ENLIVEN YOUR EAST-COAST DRIVING

The I-95 Exit Information Guide Online is, flat out, the

Each month, we gather all the sites we think offer wonderfully practical services



PHOTO: SC

single best site for auto travelers on the Web, and it's right up there as one of the most useful travel sites, no qualifiers, period. No one motoring along I-95 from Maine to Florida should be without this site's help. It lists the food, lodging, camping, shopping, weather reports, best and cheapest gas stations, road construction alerts, and more to be found at every exit along the interstate's entire length. Fellow travelers even offer restaurant reviews of the greasy-spoon and/or franchise joints along the way. A calculator figures out the mileage between any two points along the highway. This site is so full-service, you expect it to check your oil and wash your display screen. It's a great site.

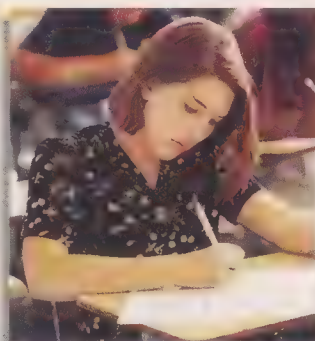
www.usastar.com/i95/homepage.htm

CRANK UP YOUR SAT SCORES

Precollegiates, don't obsess over your SAT scores: How you do only affects the entire rest of your life. So, no sweat. And no matter how smart you are or how good at taking such tests you are, you can always use some pointers to pump up the point volume. This site offers a daily bit of advice on how to get a high-enough score to get into the college of your parents' choice. This site is to helping you as marsupial is to _____.

Pencils up. Go.

www.powerprep.com/tipofday.shtml



ROB GAGE/PPG

UNDERSTAND ALL THE HOLIDAYS

So you thought it would be a nice gesture to buy lunch for your friend celebrating Ramadan? Ouch. Or you showed up to wish your neighbors a Happy Hanukkah...on

the ninth day. Oops. You should have checked this wonderfully informative, well-put-together site. Choose a holiday you want to know more about, and get a brief explanation of its traditions, folkways, foods (or lack thereof), and fundamentals. The Ramadan pages, for example, tell you all about the Prophet Muhammad, Islam, and more. The same treatment is given to Christmas, Shavuot, Easter, Halloween, Martin Luther King Day, Valentine's Day—you name it. Be informed. Be ecumenical. See what makes the world tick. Finally understand why you're getting those paid days off. It's all right here.

www.holidays.net/page2.htm

WILL IT BE A BOY OR A GIRL?

Short of amniocentesis and other medical peekaboos, guessing the gender of a soon-to-be-born has been left to sixth sense, old wives' tales (don't young wives get a say in anything?), and family tradition. Now comes a test that, essentially, accumulates and organizes all the signs and certainties of classic superstition under one roof, then plays the odds. You let it know whether your feet are colder now or the same as before you

got pregnant, whether you eat or refuse the heel of a loaf of bread, how hairy your legs are, if you've had dramatic chest development or not, and so on—19 questions in all. It's fun to play and a jaw-dropper when it works. Er, if it works.

www.childbirth.org/articles/boyorgirl.html



L.T. RHODES/TONY STONE

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www.incrediblyuseful.com

■ **Daily Double Scoop** Just enough Net news.

www.doublescoop.com

■ **Surf School** Where all that technical mumbo jumbo about the Net is translated into English.

www.surfschool.com

■ **Pretty Strange Site of the Day** We couldn't make these up.

www.prettystrange.com



YAHOO!TM
Internet Life

www.yil.com

ZD ZIFF-DAVIS
www.zdnet.com

TOUCHED BY THE NET

Understanding Web Copyright Law

www.benedict.com

What do 2 Live Crew, George Harrison, and Vanilla Ice have in common? Answer: one particular headache, for which Benedict O'Mahoney's page has the cure. A lawyer on a mission, O'Mahoney has crafted a fascinating exploration of copyright law in the age of the Net. His initial motives were selfish: to prove his mettle as an intellectual-property attorney (his background was in corporate law). Now, he gets from 50 to 100 e-mails a day from around the world. "The medium is so new that people have a thirst for information on their rights and responsibilities in cyberspace," he says.

Amid all the hoopla, some ordinary people are doing extraordinary things online

BY LISA NAPOLI

Exploring Female Spirituality

www.geocities.com/Athens/1501/shekhina.html

Yael Ben-Ari says she wasn't born Jewish; she converted when she was 21 and living in Israel. Now, more than 30 years later, she's a grandmother, living in the Pacific Northwest and working as a social worker. But her passion remains women's quest for spiritual growth, and that's why she created Under Shekhina's Wings: Cross-Cultural Women's Spirituality, for feminist women of all faiths to discuss and explore their religious expression. (*Shekhina* is the feminine Hebrew term for God.) The site is for "those women who have felt that traditional religion has not adequately addressed their needs or enabled them to participate fully in religious life," says Ben-Ari on her home page.

tors to the site each month clearly feel the same; they come to search for old friends and family—the most active part of the site—and swap cultural tidbits they fear might die in their new lands, such as recipes and music.

Translating the Daily News

www.coolwebsite.com/haikus.htm

Michael Sheinbaum's Haiku Headlines of the Day is a witty, topical look at the news in special rhyming poems. His motto sums up the haiku format for those willing to give it a whirl: all the news that's fit / to print in 17 syl- / lables and three lines. "In the thick of the '96 elections, I tried one political verse a day. When the elections were over, and the news had a wider focus, I expanded to 6 a day, 9 a day, and eventually a dozen or so," says Sheinbaum (left). "Writing my haiku at the end of the day has become an exercise I look forward to every evening." And one that poetry and current-events buffs can look forward to each day.

Lisa Napoli writes the weekly Hyperwocky column for The New York Times's *Cybertimes* (www.nytimes.com).



OLD WAY

BY DAVID SHEFF



NETWAY

Comparing the Tried-and-True with the Net-and-New

[SELECTING A GREAT CHAMPAGNE]

OLD WAY

- 1 For our wedding anniversary, we wanted to celebrate in style (for a change, according to my lovely bride). So we sat around wondering: Which champagne would best suit our festive mood?
- 2 At a local wine and spirits store, we asked the salesman for a recommendation.
- 3 In three price categories, he recommended Dom Perignon (of course), a midpriced Tattinger, and a California sparkling wine, Domaine Carneros, Tattinger's domestic offering.
- 4 Chose the high-priced champagne—we were celebrating, after all—and were well pleased.

Total time elapsed
17 minutes shopping



Comments

The salesman was knowledgeable, but his recommendations were fairly unimaginative: Dom is a no-brainer.

NET WAY

- 1 Searched on *champagne* and found the online House of Moët & Chandon (www.moet.com/taste/tasting.html), which provided hints on champagne tasting. Though it predictably recommended using Moët's champagnes, the instructions for holding a champagne tasting were useful, and a tasting mat was available online, easy to print out. We bookmarked it for later use and surfed on to select a champagne for our current celebration.
- 2 Short of holding our own tasting—though we plan one—we sought the advice of professional tasters, and indeed, there were the results of many tastings available online. One, at Table Wine (www.tablewine.com/archive4.htm), was informative, offering some less conventional recommendations, including an expensive, vintage Cristal and a nonvintage Veuve Clicquot Brut.
- 3 With the author's well-explained recommendations in mind, headed back to the wine shop. The Cristal was impeccable.

Total time elapsed
29 minutes surfing

Comments

The Web is a great resource for gathering the opinions of professionals in any field.

WINNER

Net Way for a breadth of opinion, not just one or two (cheers)

PHOTO: SC

[TRACKING A PACKAGE SENT BY UPS]

OLD WAY

- 1 To determine if a package we had recently sent via United Parcel Service (UPS) had arrived at its destination, I called the company's toll-free number.
- 2 I was connected to an operator who traced the package for me, in addition to providing me with the time the package was signed for and the name of the person who did the signing.

Total time elapsed
4 minutes

Comments
Easy and efficient



NET WAY

- 1 Headed to the tracking page at UPS online (www.ups.com/tracking/tracking.html).
- 2 Typed in the tracking number, clicked "track," and received the same information as with the Old Way.

Total time elapsed
1.6 minutes

Comments
Saved a whole 2.4 minutes

WINNER

Net Way

[NAMING BABIES]

OLD WAY

- 1 Our friends made the mistake of asking us to help them name their twin daughters, due in several weeks.
- 2 After the couple rejected the names of numerous family members and friends, we checked two baby-naming books out of the library.
- 3 The mother- and father-to-be did a lot of groaning at our (and each other's) recommendations, but several names survived the boos and made it onto a short list: Claire, Clara, Jane, Jean-Louise, Louise, Luna, Sofia, Sophie, and Rose.
- 4 But they still weren't sure...

Total time elapsed
Hours

Comments
For a while, everyone liked the name Bonheur, after the painter, but it was rejected when my teenage son pointed out the potential for relentless teasing.

WINNER

Tie—the books and online lists are similar.

NET WAY

- 1 There are numerous sites that seek to help with baby names, often including the names' derivations and meanings. Mike's Page of Baby Names (www.charm.net/~shack/name/babynm.html) lists baby names each year according to their popularity. We were amazed at—and our friends rejected—some of the most popular girls' names of 1997 (Samantha was number 6; Brianna, number 11).
- 2 From Parent Zone's list of girls' names (www.parentzone.com/parents/bnames.htm), Carmen and Cora were added to the list.
- 3 Baby Names! (www.babynames.com) claims to have a database of 4,200 names, including an entire selection of names of the classics.
- 4 Our friends rejected Shakespearean names, including Aemilia and Hermione.
- 5 Iris and Juliet were added to the list of possible names.
- 6 But they still weren't sure...

Total time elapsed
Hours more

Comments
At 2 weeks old, the twins were adorable—and still unnamed.





Roger Ebert's Top 20 Movie Sites

1997

Y-Life's esteemed columnist gives his updated verdict on the 20 motion-picture sites that deserve a thumbs-up from any serious moviegoer

I use the Web so many times a day as part of my job that I wonder, sometimes, how I ever got along without it. I need a filmography? A year of release? A still photo, so I can see which of two unknown actresses played the prom queen? Box-office results? Background info on Phoolan Devi, India's *Bandit Queen*?

What I have to remember while gathering information on the Web is that the sources are sometimes murky and often wrong. The Web can be a resource for movie buffs, but let the reader beware. With that in mind, let's begin with the five sites I visit most frequently.

The Five Most Useful Movie Sites on the Web



The most useful single movie site on the Web is, by general acclaim, the **INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE**. Virtually every movie is here, with *all* of its cast and credits, plus information about its distribution, links to reviews, quotes, trivia, video availability, goofs, grosses, posters, and even a button that will tell you about funny stuff hidden in the end titles.

All very useful, but most of the information is e-mailed in by volunteers, and nobody vouches for it. It's generally accurate, yes, and if you find a mistake, you can e-mail in a correction. I'm often bemused by the plot summaries, which sometimes seem to be based on ads or trailers. The original summary for *Gang Related*, for example, said the cops in the movie try to pin their murders on gangs. Wrong; a long sequence involves their attempts to find an individual suspect and frame him.

Another highly unreliable feature on the Internet Movie Database is the movie's quality rating, on a 1-to-10 scale. People can vote as often as they want, and many new movies have a curious way of scoring a perfect 10 before they're even in release. Could their publicists be voting early and often?



The second most useful Web movie site, for me, is the **MOVIE REVIEW QUERY ENGINE AT TELERAMA**. This is the site that indexes reviews of new movies from commercial sources and the Usenet movie review groups. It seems focused mostly on North America, which is a shame when you want to check the local reaction to a movie from India, say, or Australia—but it usually has more links than does the Critics button on the Internet Movie Database.

It has replaced the similar Cinemachine, a once useful, now moribund site that still lingers, lazily referring all queries to the Internet Movie Database.

3 SCREEN IT!, subtitled "Entertainment Reviews for Parents," is refreshingly dispassionate in its clinical analysis of films. It offers a chart with 15 categories, from "nudity" to "imitative behavior" to "jump scenes," rates them from "none" to "heavy," and analyzes each category in detail. It then offers a factual plot synopsis, followed by an intelligent review of the film, an explanation of the MPAA rating, and a discussion of suitability for various age groups. Then it goes deeper, dis-

4 FILM.COM is the most wide-ranging general movie site on the Web. Its home page offers links to well-written current movie reviews, interviews, back-lot gossip, feedback, home video information, and a most impressive order service through Seattle's famous Scarecrow Video (I once visited this store and was amazed by the selection of rare titles). One of film.com's most seductive (and useful) features is the "GIST" listing of all movies playing on cable or satellite. The site is searchable by channel or time, the clickable titles lead to brief reviews, and there is an interactive feature that allows you to make up a daily or weekly viewing schedule.

The Five Most Dazzling Sites
Sometimes while surfing, I'll discover a site that represents so much originality and creativity that I forget what I was looking for and just stop to savor.

1 The most ambitious movie site I found on my explorations hides behind the bland title **THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY: BEHIND-THE-SCENES**. The site is authored by three high-school students (Peter Bleickardt of Lincroft, New Jersey, Rhys Southan of Richardson, Texas, and Michael Vaingauz of Great Neck, New York). On the basis of this site, they're all in the running to become the next Steven



cussing each major character as a possible role model and describing in detail the scenes that may concern parents. The page does not seem to reflect any particular political or religious agenda—it simply offers common-sense advice for parents who want to know more about the suitability of current movies for their children.

The site is the work of only one person, Jim Judy. "Just this month," he wrote me, "I left my government job of 10-plus years to pursue this full-time (still not making any money from it, but what the heck!)." I don't know if he can make money with a free-standing Web site, but his service might find a home in newspaper syndication or as an add-on to America Online or CompuServe. The fact that he offers objective information, not sectarian or political propaganda, makes it unique among the "content rating" suppliers.

5 MR. SHOWBIZ has a wide selection of material—there are celebrity interviews (it even nabbed the URL *celebsite.com*), there's news that's updated through the day, there are games, there's a membership option, and there's the delightful daily watercooler poll. This magazine gave E! Online a five-star award last year, but Mr. Showbiz was around when E! was just a cable television station. Too bad the site takes forever to load, even on my ISDN line, with its unnecessary Java applets that bring forth nothing more than an annoying and useless moving scroll of recent reviews or randomly selected genre hits. Another curiosity: There doesn't seem to be any way to download Mr. Showbiz's information to a text file. Design glitches aside, the site has excellent reviews (real reviews by intelligent critics, not Blurba-Matic morsels).

Spielberg. There are three sections, including an "Interactive Simulation" that allows the user to cowrite, cast, shoot, edit, score, and advertise his own virtual film.

The amount of work that went into the site is mind-boggling, but more impressive is the amount of knowledge and creativity. Any one of the three segments of the site would make an impressive Web page; together (including an online analysis of how their QuickTime movie was made), they constitute the sort of thing of which a film school would be proud.

2 It takes a while to download the "sample work" at **VIRTUAL CAMERA MOVEMENT**, but for once it's worth the wait, because you will be able to witness something never seen by human eyes: a frozen instant of time, seen as a moving picture. It's been a couple of years since Dayton Taylor first

e-mailed me with an explanation of his process, and since then, he has patented it and licensed it for commercials, and Spielberg muses that it would be a unique way of depicting a crucial moment in time. Now a demo is on the Web.

Here's how Virtual Camera Movement works. Taylor places still cameras in a ring around his target event and fires them all at once. Then he transfers the still images from each camera to motion-picture film. When the film plays, our point of view circles the event, which is frozen in time. The technology to do this has been available since the invention of movies—the thing is, nobody ever thought of it until Dayton Taylor did.



3 THE GREATEST FILMS OF ALL TIME represents an astonishing amount of thought and work by Tim Dirks, who is so modest he doesn't even byline his detailed, evocative essays on great films. The site offers many ways of looking at important films, but the centerpiece is his series of 100 long reviews of classics, including downloadable still photos, highly extensive plot summaries, and a lot of quotes (he must have watched the movies with a tape recorder at his side).

The site is useful for film students or others seeking an entry point into film history. He has essays on genres, periods and types of movies, and suggested titles in each area, and his sheer love for the movies comes across in his accuracy and energy. His essay on John Ford's *My Darling Clementine*, for example, clocks in at 6,500 words and includes a postscript on differences between the real gunfight at the OK Corral and the movie version.

4 Everything you wanted to know about silent films, and a lot you didn't know to ask, is at **THE SILENTS MAJORITY**, an elaborate, multitiered site run by Spike Lewis and Diane MacIntyre for a Los Angeles-based silent-film society. Included are the current issue of their online silent-film magazine, an index of filmmakers and performers, hot tips on screenings around the world, source info, and downloadable clips from silent classics.

5 Speaking of silent films, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, early Disney and Fleisher animation, and the last chapter of a *Rocket Man* serial are all in streaming video at the **AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE'S ONLINE CINEMA**. The prize is Keaton's *The Boat*, where he builds a boat in his house and then solves the problem of how to get it outside. The films come in two sizes, postage stamp or block-of-four, and are jerky because we only see every second or third frame. But the music is jolly, and there's a button to click if you want to order the films on video from the AFL.

Five Online Movie Outlaws

Harry Knowles bases his Web site in Austin, Texas, but that's too close for comfort as far as some Hollywood studios are concerned.

1 Knowles's **AIN'T IT COOL NEWS** modestly includes a quote from Quentin Tarantino calling him "the Wolf Blitzer of the Internet." He specializes in advance news about films in production and merciless reports from sneak previews. According to a cable news piece on Knowles, Warner Bros. is sore at him for generating preopening negative buzz on *Batman & Robin*. The site includes news, reviews, and user forums ("*Star Wars* has its own forum," Knowles tartly advises). His reviews are obsessively first-person. Most critics spend too much time on the plot, Knowles says. "Bah, humbug! Enter the fat boy. I tell you what happened to me leading up to seeing the film. The line, the talk, the buzz, the trailers. Then I describe how the film made me feel,"

he says. He isn't kidding. Sample from his *Batman & Robin* review: "The journey to the theater was uneventful. We were the first to arrive, and we staked our claim at the front of the line..."

2 A guerrilla site named **MOVIEJUICE!** is equally straightforward, describing itself as "deconstructing the bullshit that is hollywood (and piercing the nipple on tinseltown's breast augmentation)." Its irreverent reviews, mostly by Mark Ramsey, are cheerfully smart-ass. About *The Peacemaker*: "Welcome the first flick from hype-heavy Dreamworks SKG or 'SKaG' for short. It's the company formed by Spielberg, Katzenberg, Geffen and an uncredited Al Roker. And these guys ain't dummies (with the possible exception of Geffen who recently signed George Michael to a multi-million dollar, no-win vanity deal). Why not just bury the money, David?"

3 CORONA'S COMING ATTRACTIONS is the Drudge Report of movies on the Web. It specializes in advance gossip from the sets of movies in production. The acid test for spies, of course, is any movie by Stanley Kubrick, and Corona's info on Kubrick's forthcoming *Eyes Wide Shut* is amazingly comprehensive, including even a dozen photographs said to be of the movie's secret sets at Pinewood Studios. The site has a search engine allowing you to search for gossip by film title, director, or genre, and you can check its track record by plunging into the archives for Gossip Past.

4 There was a stir this fall when Kevin (Chasing Amy) Smith's original screenplay for the new *Superman* movie was posted on the Web after being rejected by director Tim Burton. Warner Bros., which seems more finely tuned to the Net than most studios, won a restraining order against the fan who posted it—although by then, of course, it had traveled hither and yon on the

Internet trade winds. **DREW'S SCRIPTS-O-RAMA** avoids lawsuits by only providing the *links* to screenplays and not the screenplays themselves ("Wink, wink," chortles Harry Knowles in recommending the page). Potential screenwriters can download scripts to see how they're formatted, and fans can often find drafts of scenes that were cut from their favorite movies.

Modesty Does Not Forbid...

My own reviews are online on CompuServe (**Go: Ebert**) and on the Web at www.suntimes.com/ebert. At both sites you will also find "Movie Answer Man," a biweekly column that recently gave birth to a book, and "Roger Ebert's The Great Movies," new biweekly reviews of older classic films. The "Siskel & Ebert" Web page includes streaming audio of our recent reviews. It's at www.siskel-ebert.com. Toronto, Ontario-based film critic Alex Fung posts summaries of the arguments and verdicts on "Siskel & Ebert" at www.ncf.carleton.ca/~aw220/se.htm. And yes, there is a **Beyond the Valley of the Dolls Tarot Deck** at www.leary.com/howard/BtvotdTarat.html, based on my screenplay. How many other movies released in



1970 can make the same claim? Howard Hallis has assigned each figure in the tarot to a character in the movie, and adds: "I sent a set to Russ Meyer a few years ago, and he loved them but threatened me with legal action if I tried to sell them. Well, here on the Web they're just up for display." And there's a **Beyond the Valley of the Dolls Homepage** at sashimi.wwwa.com/~jff/bvd.html.

5 One of the angrier movie sites on the Web is **CAUGHT IN THE MACHINERY**, run by *San Jose Mercury News* film critic Glenn Lovell. The site is based on his extensive survey for the Annenberg Project of how movie studios and movie critics interact, and includes horror stories of critics banned from screenings for penning unkind words about a studio's release. The saddest story: Pauline Kael, our most valued movie critic, was

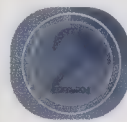
often treated "like a gate-crasher at a wedding," Lovell says. He quotes Kael: "If I panned a movie by a certain producer or director, they made certain I didn't get in to the next one."

The Top Five Online Movie Critics

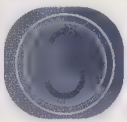
It's easy to find the high-profile movie critics. But other splendid critics are found only, or most easily, on the Web. Here are five I admire.



Few pro critics work harder than **JAMES BERARDINELLI**, who posts some 250 literate, intelligent reviews a year, even though he has a day job. In September I met Berardinelli at the Toronto Film Festival and found that he drives an hour each way to Philadelphia four nights a week to see the movies. When he finds time to write, I dunno—but he's good. A newspaper looking for a film critic couldn't do much better than hiring him.



STANLEY KAUFFMANN isn't, strictly speaking, an online critic; his reviews appear every week in *The New Republic*, but since the magazine has a limited circulation, I have no hesitation in recommending a brilliant writer whose reviews I have read faithfully for three decades. Apart from his other qualities, Kauffmann is one of the most concise of writers, and I study him in the hope of learning how to get one word to do the work of three.



Like Kauffmann, **JONATHAN ROSENBAUM** of the *Chicago Reader* writes for a publication with limited circulation (except in Chicago, where there are free stacks at every remotely trendy spot). Rosenbaum is one of the very best critics now working in America, and he writes long and deep.



I see **EDWIN JAHIEL** at Cannes every year, and whenever I visit my alma mater, the University of Illinois at Urbana. He's the founder of the university's Unit for Cinema Studies, and writes reviews for *The News-Gazette*, where I started my journalism career. His site benefits from his familiarity with cinema history and European films.



DAMIAN CANNON's review site is called **Movie Reviews UK**, has a database of hundreds of reviews, and strikes a balance between new releases and revisited classics. The British critic's site is the place to turn if you need an in-depth consideration, say, of Kieslowski's *Decalogue* (or *Dekalog*—Cannon can get persnickety).

SITES IN THIS STORY

INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE
us.imdb.com/search

MOVIE REVIEW QUERY ENGINE AT TELERAMA
www.cinema.pgh.pa.us/movie/reviews

CINEMACHINE
www.cinemachine.com/intro2.html

SCREEN IT!
www.screenit.com/index.html

FILM.COM
www.film.com

MR. SHOWBIZ
www.mrshowbiz.com/reviews/moviereviews/index.html

E! ONLINE
www.eonline.com

THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY:
BEHIND-THE-SCENES
library.advanced.org/10015

VIRTUAL CAMERA MOVEMENT
www.virtualcamera.com

THE GREATEST FILMS OF ALL TIME
www.filmsite.org

THE SILENTS MAJORITY
www.mdle.com/ClassicFilms/indexold.htm

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE'S ONLINE CINEMA
www.afionline.org/cinema/archive/lobby.html

AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
www.aint-it-cool-news.com

MOVIEJUICE!
www.moviejuice.com/index.html

CORONA'S COMING ATTRACTIONS
www.corona.bc.ca/films/mainFramed.html

CAUGHT IN THE MACHINERY
www.usc.edu/dept/annenberg/lovell.html

JAMES BERARDINELLI
movie-reviews.colossus.net

STANLEY KAUFFMANN
www.eneas.com/magazines/tnr

JONATHAN ROSENBAUM
www.chireader.com/movies

EDWIN JAHIEL
www.prairienet.org/ejahiel

DAMIAN CANNON
www.sr.bham.ac.uk/~dbc/Movies

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ELECTRONIC NEWSSTAND. This 'zine about *magazines* sports a new look, with easier access to discount subscriptions and a sharp take on print media doings.
www.eneews.com

HOUSENET. Hosts Katie and Gene, who have remodeled 14 houses, have overhauled their Web site, adding a database of more than 60,000 home-improvement contractors in the process.
www.housenet.com

USA HOCKEY. The latest version of the hockey-lovers forum hits the ice with 24-hour news updates and forums for male and female players of all ages.
www.usahockey.com

YAHOO! FINANCE. *Y-Life's* business partner retools its investment-news area, adding tracking and regional bank-rate features.
quote.yahoo.com

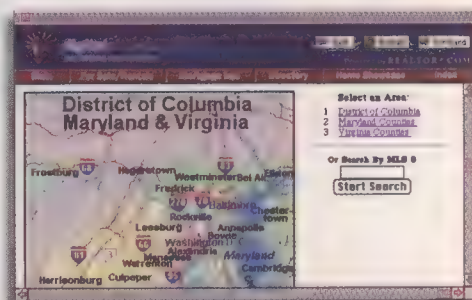
ISKI. You'll find more than articles in this skiing 'zine. Search the resort database for a place to stay, then book your trip with iSKI at the travel desk.
www.iski.com

ON THE SERVICES

JOAN LUNDEN. AOL welcomes the "Good Morning America" alumna as its newest columnist. *AOL membership required.*
Keywords: Joan Lunden

DIGITAL CITY REAL ESTATE. The Digital City guides make moving a little easier, with home listings, mortgage facts, and

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Keywords: DC Real Estate



AOL's Digital City Real Estate offers advice and information when it comes time to move.

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investor.prodigy.net

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getworking.msn.com

SCRAWL. Bored with your coterie of chardades players? MSN adds a world of gamers. *MSN membership required.*
scrawl.msn.com

ENTERTAINMENT

THE FLICK FILOSOPHER. Former film student MaryAnn Johanson delivers her fresh, industry-outsider's take on both new and not-so-new titles.
members.aol.com/flickfilos

ADAM SANDLER.COM. Realizing the burning need for an Adam Sandler fan site, Jack and Covert, two of his college buds, built this well-organized shrine.
www.adamsandler.com

VH-1. Already a presence on AOL, MTV's subdued sibling debuts a weekly 'zine, a program guide, and a handful of other music-appreciation helpers.
www.vh1.com
Keyword: VH1

THE.PIXELED.WORD

REALCITY NYC. What? Another city guide? RC answers harried, would-be tourists' questions on everything from taxi rates to finding a hotel *before* they arrive in town.

www.realcitynyc.com/index.html

COMPUTER MAGAZINE ARCHIVE. *Yahoo!* Internet Life publisher Ziff-Davis presents a searchable, regularly updated archive to the leading computer magazines, newspapers, and journals. *Fee-based service*

cma.zdnet.com

HOME.&FAMILY

SELECTSURF. With all the ruckus about kids using the Net, the timing's right for this family-focused reference guide to "the best of the Internet."

www.selectsurf.com

NET SHEPHERD. Search-engine powerhouse AltaVista lends its muscle to this "family-friendly" search tool, which rates sites in the same manner as TV shows.

family.netshepherd.com

with safety advice, recall listings, and its famed test grids. A small fee provides access to a two-year archive, updated ratings, and a special auto buying area.

www.consumerreports.org

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www.tobaccofreekids.org

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www.parenting.org

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH'S ANXIETY DISORDERS. Panic attacks, obsessive-compulsive thoughts, and post-traumatic stress are among the anxiety disorders discussed in this valuable primer.

www.nimh.nih.gov/anxiety

SPORTS.&LEISURE

N2INLINE.COM. Examine the in-line skating culture via profiles of the scene's big names, chat forums, and event coverage.

www.n2inline.com

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www.housenet.com

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www.usahockey.com

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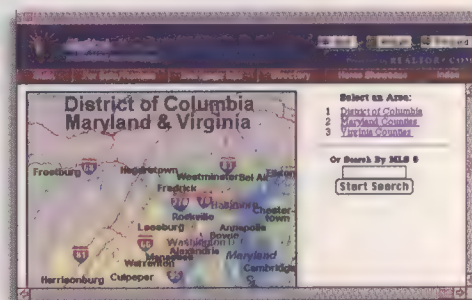
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www.scrum.com

SERIOUSSPORTS.COM. What's your pleasure? Air, land, or water sports? East or west? Here's a database of outdoor and adventure-sports resorts that may bring out the wild man (or wild woman) in you.
www.serioussports.com

CHESSMASTER LIVE. Chess aficionados match their wits here, with perks such as 3-D chess play and tournament eligibility for paid members.

www.chessmaster.com

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This Month's Contributors

Phillip Bishop, Dean Foust, Lisa Kempster, Shirl Kennedy, Joel Lewis, Bryan VanDyke



LIFE SITE TEST



New Cars

This month, we add real-world comparison testing to our standard reviews. We chose the best research sites for the undecided buyer and then put the leading car-buying services through some rigorous tire-kicking



Research Sites

BEST OVERALL LOOK AT THE MARKET

CAR & DRIVER. How much car can you afford? Browse the Buying Guide to see what's in your price range as a list or as a feature-by-feature comparison chart. Test findings include highest top speed, highest MPG, most interior space, etc.

www.caranddriver.com ★★★★★

BEST VIEWS OF THE CARS, INSIDE AND OUT

CARPOINT. With its 3-D viewer, zoom around and through the interior of 55 new models. Exterior pics, too.

carpoint.msn.com ★★★★★

MOST COMPREHENSIVE PRICE INFO

EDMUND'S. Feature-by-feature pricing (MSRP and dealer invoice); current na-

tionwide incentives, dealer holdbacks, and rebates. Don't skip "How to Get Your Way at the Auto Dealer."

www.edmunds.com ★★★★★

BEST DATA ON PREVIOUS MODELS

CAR TALK CAR REPORT. Presents recalls, crash-test results, and service bulletins from, among other sources, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Highway Loss Data Institute if you plug in a make and model.

www.cartalk.com/Tools/car-report.pl ★★★★★

BEST ASSESSMENT OF OWNERSHIP COST

THE CAR CENTER. Best leases, cheapest cars to own and operate, invoice costs, mileage stats, ownership costs over five years, and theft indices.

www.intellichoice.com ★★★★★

BEST SUMMARY OF LEMON LAWS

AUTOPEDIA. Explains the ins and outs of the laws for 22 states.

www.autopedia.com/html/HotLinks_Lemon.html ★★★★★

BEST WAYS TO FIND A LOCAL DEALERSHIP

YAHOO! AUTOS and **DEALERNET**, depending on your location.

autos.yahoo.com ★★★★★

www.dealernet.com ★★★★★

BEST UP-AND-COMER TO WATCH

CONSUMER REPORTS. Full text of the magazine's road tests, car profiles, and reports. (\$3/month, \$24/yr)

www.consumerreports.org ★★★★★ —P.B.

ON THE SERVICES

AOL Auto Center. Highlights: loan data from Bank Rate Monitor; road-test reports from *Road & Track* (mostly '97 models); a pared-down *Car & Driver* Buyers' Guide; and reports from *Consumer Reports* ('97 models; '98 data are due in April).

Keyword: *Auto Center*

MSN Car Talk. All the fun of the radio show's site, plus MSN-only stuff: audio files of the previous week's show and the Diagnostomatic database (plug in your car trouble and it'll give you an answer).

On Stage: *Channel 4*

CARMAKERS GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Aside from pinpointing the closest dealership, sites from the major manufacturers don't tell much more than their TV ads do. So we give high marks to **General Motors** for letting users search local dealer inventory, schedule a test drive, and request that a vehicle be ordered and held. **Alfa Romeo** and **LandRover** get a special commendation for going multilingual. (See *Yahoo!* for the URLs.)



Full-Service Sites

How useful is the Net at getting you the car deal you want?

Auto-finding service	Response time to our initial request for information	Identify local dealer(s)	Generate a sales call from local dealer	Provide "pre-negotiated" price quote from local dealer	Deliver a buyer's order for you to sign	Help with dealer paperwork	Will factory-order if necessary	Total cost	We went in search of a 1998 Honda Accord LX five-speed to be purchased at and/or delivered to a location in New York City. Here are the deals we were offered.
ACS/Cars@Cost www.acscorp.com	Next business day		✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$300 (includes \$75 nonrefundable retainer)	Quoted price: \$17,396. Delivery would be immediate.
Auto Buying and Leasing Services www.autobuylease.com	Next business day	✓	✓	✓			✓	Free	No quote was received after more than one week, though a quote was promised within 48 hours.
Auto BuySmart www.autobuysmart.com	Next business day	✓		✓	✓	✓		\$300 (refundable)	Quoted price: \$17,156. Delivery would take two to three weeks.
Auto-By-Tel www.autobytel.com	Same day	✓	✓					Free	Quoted price from dealership: \$17,556. Delivery would be immediate.
AutoWeb www.autoweb.com	Same day	✓	✓			✓		Free	Quoted price from dealership: \$17,300. Delivery would take two to three weeks.
CarPoint carpoint.msn.com	Same day	✓		✓	✓	✓		Free	Quoted price from dealership: \$17,957. Delivery would take two months.
CarSearch of America www.findmycar.com	Five business days	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	\$350 (includes \$175 nonrefundable retainer)	Quoted price: \$17,231. Delivery would take two to three weeks. Securing a buyer's order requires \$500 nonrefundable deposit on car.
Consumers Car Club www.carclub.com	Four business days	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	\$100 (non-refundable)	Quoted price: \$17,156. Delivery would take one week.

The Bottom Line

Price quotes are readily available for free (in writing, via e-mail), but shop around before committing to the first one you receive. And remember that price-quote services do not guarantee that the dealership will sell you a particular car at the quoted price.

Securing a guaranteed price will cost you but can be the best way to go, depending on the car you're looking for. On our tests, we found the best deal (lowest total cost of the car, including car-finding service fee) came from a pay service.

—Reporting by Theresa Riley

*Fee is \$20, if price quote is all you want.

Laugh-Out-Loud Funny Sites

GUEST REVIEW



by Mark McKinney

Ring in the New Year with a good belly laugh. "Kids in the Hall" and "SNL" alum Mark McKinney went surfing and found plenty on the Web to laugh at. And plenty that made him go "Hmmmm"

THE BEST

If it's something resembling offbeat "folk art" comedy you're after, then check out **OO**. It's dedicated to every oddball (and sometimes inscrutable) bit of comedic mileage you can get out of imagining that two side-by-side *O*'s have deeper meaning. There's *The Dictator (O)*, *The Mutation (oOo)*, *The Heat (Burns like the sun? oo)*, and on and on. Some are so arcane, even I couldn't get the point. Scott Thompson of "Kids in the Hall" used to have a character he'd like to animate around 3 a.m. at the kitchen table. He would stick a spoon into a bottle, rattle it, and screech. "Hello! My name's Mister Bottlespoonhead!" Well, Mr. Bottlespoonhead, meet your close cousin, **OO**! www.alcyone.com/oo/ ★★★★★

Long after this article is published and after I've returned my press pass and cashed that hefty honorarium check from *Yahoo! Internet Life*, I think **FORUM 2000** is a site that will bear revisiting. It's one of the advice-o-matic variety, to which you submit your "vexing moral issue" and are given "advice from (simulations of) the world's greatest thinkers." The weekly lineup when I looked included The evil Spock, Nietzsche, Howard Stern, and The Cube (think *Hal 2000*). At first glance, it seemed to be just another wacky input-your-question-and-get-a-delicious-non-sequitur-reply site ("Chad! Marie! It told me to make a kite out of my panties! Har har!"), and even though Forum 2000's first and instantaneous reply to your query is exactly that, you are advised to wait for more responses, and that's where it gets good. Now, I don't want to spoil the illusion for you Dorothys out there, but these simulated brains are fakes! Some real person is penning these replies, and he or she is pretty

Press this button to start

SCREEN 1

Big Green Button

Whatever you do don't press *this* button

SCREEN 2

Big Green Button

Quit

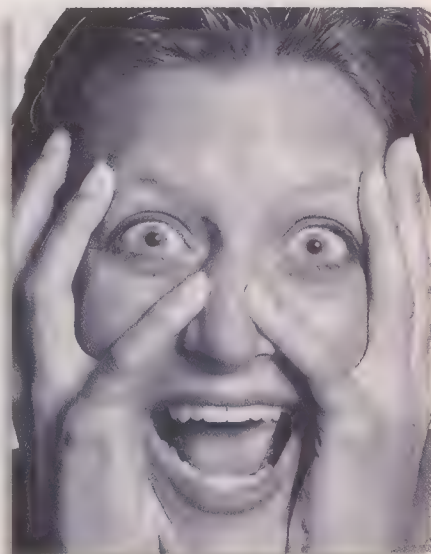
Okay, *please* don't press this button

SCREEN 3

Big Green Button

Quit

The Big Green Button is a fairly straightforward, easy-to-use site with a juicy comedic payoff.



JOHN BRADLEY/ONYX STONE

funny. Not all the replies are gems, but geez—this whiz is prolific, answering fully half of the 30 or so questions archived daily with reasonable and sometimes excellent zingers. As one who is still sweating what I could have said to that jerk from the fender bender I got into last month, I tip my hat. www.forum2000.org ★★★★★

There are two great sites available from a guy named Peter Gilstrap. **JESUS OF THE WEEK** features a new painting or sculpture each week of the man from Galilee as rendered by some well-meaning artist, along with a comment or two. The commentary is the real value

here, as dreadful art cannot be enjoyed alone. Gilstrap's insights are dead-on funny. And just when one might tire of it all, the author relaxes his criteria to include some evangelical oddities, such as a portrait of Robert Redford in an oddly Christ-like mood and a photo of a chimp pointing out Salt Lake City on a map with a significant finger.

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/extra/gilstrap/jesus.html ★★★★★

Gilstrap's winningly sarcastic comments raise his other site, **IT CRAWLED FROM THE**

BINS, way above your run-of-the-mill ain't-this-a-peachy-collection-of-weirdness sites. It's dedicated to forgotten and yet memorable vinyl. If you're a big fan of the William Shatner spoken poem records, or you find something übercool about Buddy Greco's beatnik version of "Like Young," his Vegas-salutes-Kerouac tribute to the beatnik scene, then this library is for you. The first record reviewed in this generous collection is an album coproduced by pharmaceutical makers of the tranquilizer placidyl, and...wait for it...*Jackie Gleason*. It features a downloadable sound file of a strangely soporific version of "Moon River" complete with an inappropriate sitar break. Other albums of note include *Schnappsie the Magic Dachsbund* and David "Man from U.N.C.L.E." McCallum conducting "personal impressions." My one complaint is that not all of these goodies come with sound files.

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/extra/gilstrap/crawl.html ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

I don't know exactly why I found **THE DEATH CLOCK** funny, but I did. Call me perverse. The site is really straightforward: You simply enter the year, month, and day of your birth, hit Enter, and presto! Out pops the expected year, month, and day of your death based on life-insurance actuarial tables. I can think of at least three people I could really torment with this. Can't you?

www.deathclock.com ★★★★★

Finally, a couple of sites well worth the one visit it takes to get the joke. First, there is the **BIG GREEN BUTTON** (not to be confused with the more popular Big Red Button). You are presented with a big green button. You press the big green button. You are taunted to keep pressing. You do. You are begged to stop. You don't. How long can this go on? In comedy, the hardest part is always a good

ending. Big Green Button has one.

www.geocities.com/Hollywood/5945/bgb-main.html ★★★★★

Brevity is the soul of wit. I respectfully submit for your approval **STICK FIGURE DEATH THEATRE**. There are three films to choose from; *The Car*, *The Gun*, and *The Head*. I liked the first. When you load the site, a slim, rectangular screen appears with a stick figure standing to the far left. A scribble of a car appears from the right-hand side and runs him down. You smile. You move on.

www.calvert.com/sfdt/sfdt.html ★★★★★

Hungry from wading through my chunky prose? Feeling like a big ol'

pint of Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough? Then before I'm done, I must give an honorable mention to **NETGROCER**. Although this commercial site is not—at least intentionally—trying to be in any way weird or funny, it is fun. You can scan all the products by size, calories, and any number of other criteria as you race your cybercart through the glossy pages. Wheeeeeee! My golden vision of the future always consisted of three essential elements: flying cars, soma orgies, and something a lot like NetGrocer. *Eating, eating, eating/keep those proles a'feeding!/keep the 'conomy beating! (Sound of a whip cracking) Rawhiiiiide!*

www.netgrocer.com ★★★★★

EXCERPTS

DR. DANTE'S FIGURE CONTROL RECORD

(from It Crawled from the Bins)

"Sit back in your seats, take your purses out of your laps, put them on the floor. If you'd like to, you may take your shoes off. It does have a tendency to relax you, especially with high heels. There you go, it's a warm floor..."

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/extra/gilstrap/crawl3.html



MR. X: XAVIER MICHELL DOES HIS THING

(from It Crawled from the Bins)

"And here we have Mr. X, who Does His Thing, but one can only imagine what that 'thing' might be. Judging from the look of that cocksure, scotch-and-soda grin and his casual, 'winded-stud' posture, it'd be a safe bet that these three zombielike lovelies have had a recent taste of the 'thing' that Mr. X does and are standing by their man."

www.dallasobserver.com/extra/gilstrap/crawl24.html



JESUS OF THE WEEK, NO. XXXIII

"This Jesus really brings back memories for me. He looks a lot like a kid named Jerry Hooper who I went to 4th grade with. One day Jerry beat me up and while he was doing this he sang 'Me and Mrs. Jones Got a Thing Goin' On'... He was too young to have a beard. Other than that, this Jesus is pretty much a dead ringer."

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/gilstrap/jesus33.html





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Interactive Crossword Puzzles

THE BEST

Ever tear out the daily puzzle—halfway finished or still blank—to complete when you have the time? True crossword lovers owe it to themselves to check out these marvelous little wonders. These programs let you check individual answers for correctness, time yourself, and save your answers so you can take another crack some other time. You can even rework the same puzzle and keep a history of your past scores and times. Very slick. The word game that is considered by many to be the best in America—the venerable daily **NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE**, plus the

love puzzle software but not the *Times's* puzzle, check the **ACROSS PUZZLE GALLERY** to find other online puzzles that use it. These folks offer converters so you can use their software to solve puzzles from *The Times of London*, *USA Today*, and the *Washington Post*. www.nytimes.com/partners/xword/puzzles.html ★★★★★
www.litsoft.com/across/gallery.htm ★★★★★

THE REST

The award for the best list of crossword links goes to **MY VIRTUAL REFERENCE DESK**, which will lead you to the puzzles of 17 organizations. www.refdesk.com/crosswr.html ★★★★★

Quizland's **CROSSWORD OF THE DAY** daily puzzle appears just after midnight in an easy-to-use, no-frills format. The toughness level is moderate to difficult, and there's an archive, too. www.quizmaster.com/cotd.htm ★★★★★

Three former employees of *Games Magazine*, one of the great puzzle magazines, have a site called **PUZZABILITY**. Hilarious graphics and ingenious crosswords that can be downloaded and solved off-line make it worth a visit. www.puzzability.com/puzzles/index.html ★★★★★

The folks at **ONLINE CROSSWORDS** have aesthetics on their mind. Colored puzzles! Puzzles shaped like chocolate bars! Free software here lets you cre-

STUCK?

Can't figure out that last clue? Charles Bower's **JUMBLE AND CROSSWORD SOLVER** offers a way out. Just type in the letters you know are OK and use a question mark for each missing letter, and the database will tell you all the possible answers. ull.chemistry.uakron.edu/cbower/jumble.html ★★★★★

ate your own interactive puzzle. www.clearlight.com/~vivi/xw/index.html ★★★★★

PUZZLES BY FRED offers original puzzles plus others that have appeared in *Crossword Magazine* and other print publications. You'll use Across Lite, the same program that you downloaded for *The New York Times's* puzzle. www.macnamarasband.com/dlpuz.html ★★★★★

PUZZLEDEPOT's scope is broad, from "puzzle" word quizzes to current-events crossword puzzles intended for classroom use. Too many crosswords are available only in a printout format, though. www.puzzledepot.com ★★★★★

Why not try your skills against those of a bunch of other poindexters at **THE 21ST ANNUAL AMERICAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE TOURNAMENT**, April 3–5? Puzzles from previous tournaments are available in Across Lite or HTML format. www.crosswordtournament.com ★★★★★

—J.L.

America Online Users

Not only can AOL users download Across Lite software and the daily **NEW YORK TIMES** puzzle (and archive of past dailies), but they get a bonus prize: a monthly AOL-only puzzle from *Times* puzzle editor Will Shortz. Keyword: *crosswords*

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE scans in its daily puzzle. You'll have to print it to solve it, but it's here along with an archive of past puzzles. Keywords: *Chicago Tribune*

Broken Family

Five members of a familiar family are hiding in the completed grid of this crossword while we expect you'll want to look for them as soon as the puzzle is filled in, we're sure you'll need a break before finding them.



Puzzability will keep you entertained with a teaser of the week, a daily game, and more.

Sunday challenger—will cost you \$10 per year (the service is free to U.S. subscribers to seven-day *New York Times* home delivery and to *New York Times* Web subscribers outside the U.S.). Once you download the necessary puzzle software, you can download the daily and complete it off-line or online. The great feature is the set of lively forums where puzzleheads trade clues and views. If you

E-Greetings

THE BEST ★★★★★

Too late to use the postal service? Or you just want to be different this year? Send a free e-card! Cards are available to commemorate virtually any holiday or emotion. **BYTESIZE GREETINGS** has the biggest collection of cards for every occasion: anniversaries and birthdays, on through weddings and deaths. And these people know how likely it is that you'll neglect some occasion until the last minute no matter how hard you try, so the site is set up with little reminders of approaching holidays. The free BSG newsletter is another way to keep track of when you need to fire off a salvo of cards. The exotic e-pickup-line cards here probably work best in e-bars, but might be worth a whirl, anyway.

www.bytesizegreetings.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

A personalized e-mail reminder service at **123GREETINGS** eliminates the need to remember when your brother-in-law's birthday falls or when to send some flowers for your parents' anniversary. If you have your own personal page, 123Greetings offers the added feature of a free downloadable Interface Program, which lets you offer e-cards from your own Web site. The site has a healthy selection of cards for birthdays, holidays, and special events, in addition to an unusual "e-business cards" section.

www.123greetings.com ★★★★★

BLUE MOUNTAIN has a pile of musically enhanced animated cards. Besides the normal fare of scenic images and panoramic views, Blue Mountain cou-

ples Shakespearean quotes and original poetry with some of its selections.

www.bluemountain.com ★★★☆

COW CARDS moves ahead of the rest of the herd by giving you line drawings for special occasions and then letting you color them yourself online using a variety of paintbrush tools and sizes. There's only one provision: You must use a browser capable of running Java applets in order to share in this, well, *mooving* experience.

207.152.16.2/CowCards ★★★☆

The **FOUNDRY GROUP WEBCARD** server melds the latest Shockwave (sound and animation) technology with e-postcards to produce great animated e-cards. A few of the cards are tongue-in-cheek (though not "shocking"), but most pair keen animation with your message. A card called Steel Lemons shows a rock band in concert: Click on a series of buttons shaped like

EXTREEMELY SPECIALIZED CARDS

TAMIL PAGES. Handy for celebrating traditional Indian holidays

www.tamilpages.com/greetingcards/diwali.shtml

DOG-O-GRAM. Just plain dogs and special-occasion dogs

www.dogs-of-soho.com

DUMPSTER DIVER. Pairs your notes with photos of random things such as Spam cutlets, "Six Million Dollar Man" lunch boxes, etc.

cgi.connect-time.com/cgi-bin/dumpdive

POSTCARDS FROM SPACE. Shots from Mars, Betelgeuse, and other exotic locales

www.spaceday.com/postcard/postcard.htm



You'll find cards for birthdays and Boss's Day at the colorful home of Bytesize Greetings.

lemons to hear a riff from each instrument. But remember, in order for your card to be fully appreciated, the recipient of your card also needs the Shockwave plug-in.

CardServer.saiph.com/web/wcserver

★★★☆☆

If you want to dash off a literary postcard, there's no better way to send a "L'Invitation au Voyage" than with **JUST SO POSTCARDS**. Just So couples quotes from the likes of Baudelaire, Carroll, Chekhov, Kipling, and Rilke with artistic images, creating a composite card gallery. This is a small collection, but it has some great quotes.

www.just-so.com ★★★★★

Want to send a card to Uncle Geno, who, unfortunately, only speaks Italian? Use **THE DIGITAL POSTCARD**, which offers messages in 13 different languages. As is the case elsewhere, you can choose backgrounds and pictures to go with your message. Cards can also accommodate musical attachments, although the selection is not as vast as the one at Blue Mountain.

www.all-yours.net/cgi-local/bin/start1?write30 ★★★★★

—B.V.

Buying Sporting Goods

THE BEST

Jocks looking for basic equipment online have large inventories and decent prices, if not dozens of megastores, from which to choose. **WAL*MART ONLINE** offers wall-to-wall equipment for nearly every sport, from squash to water sports to skiing, via the most easy-to-use and helpful system available. For each product, you'll find a high-quality photo, detailed specs (materials, size, dimensions), and pricing info, including shipping and handling. The site keeps a running total (with tax) at the top of the screen as you shop. *Major credit cards are accepted via the Web, fax, or the phone. Orders are processed in three to five days. Shipping via UPS with express is available.* www.wal-mart.com ★★★★★

THE REST

ONLINE SPORTS is the sumo site of sporting goods, with the largest inventory. A coherent site structure and search func-

tion let you find products with ease, though search results are often clogged with multiple similar items, such as signed memorabilia. Product images are microscopic, where they exist. *Major credit cards are accepted via the Web, fax, mail, or phone. The site uses regular UPS shipping; Federal Express shipping is available for a fee.* www.onlinesports.com/pages/top.html

★★★★

STADIUM SHOP has a unique item-search request service. If you can't find an item on the site, the site operators will try to locate it for you within 24 hours or the next business day. Browsing by sport is not yet supported, but photos of most products are helpful. *Payment is accepted by major credit card or by check (via the Web, fax, or phone). Shipping takes one to four weeks on most items.* www.stadiumshop.com/index.htm ★★★★★

ZEAR DISTRIBUTORS' volume is small, but it has low, low prices (it offered a Dunlop



tennis racket at \$20 less than the manufacturer's price) and free shipping anywhere in the U.S. This is where to find bargain-basement buys and a link to the links. Zear offers an enormous section for golf groupies, complete with graphite drivers, primo putters, and whole club sets. *MasterCard or Visa are accepted via the Web, fax, or mail. Orders are shipped out immediately via regular UPS delivery.* www2.viaweb.com/zear/sporgood.html

★★★★

THE INTERNET MALL boasts an enormous roster of online shops for sporting specialty stores. This listing is best if you have a rare, precise bit of gear that you need but can't find at any of these general sporting sites. *Payment and delivery options vary with merchant.* www.internet-mall.com/bsprtnngds.html

★★★☆☆

—B.V.

SPOT-CHECKING

We wheeled out our virtual shopping carts and searched these sites for five specific products. Here's what we found.*

	The Internet Mall	Zear Distributors	Stadium Shop	Wal*Mart Online	Online Sports
Baseball bat (adult size)	N/A [†]	N/A	Louisville Slugger, five models, \$50 – \$200	Louisville Slugger, three models, \$111 – \$163	Louisville Slugger, \$40; Power Flite, \$60; various team/player bats, \$70; personalized engraved bat, \$80
Soccer ball (size 5)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Franklin Pro, \$10; Halex, two models, \$11 – \$18	Mikasa, two models, 18 – \$46; Olympia, colored balls, \$21
Basketball hoop	N/A	N/A	Ultra Flex II, \$198; Side Court Flex, \$140; Home Court Flex, \$48; Standard Rims, seven models, \$36 – \$115	Harvard, \$30	N/A
Tennis racket	N/A	Dunlop Extra-Long, \$30	N/A	N/A	Olympia Deluxe, \$36
Skateboard	Freeride, \$140; Sector 9, \$144	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Prices and selection were accurate at press time. [†]N/A: This site did not carry this merchandise.

Rap & Hip-Hop

THE BEST ★★★★★

When rap music first appeared on the scene in the late '70s, most music pundits dismissed it as a short-lived fad. And many are probably sharing a lonely beer right now with the same forward-thinking guy who passed up signing The Beatles. Thanks to the money flowing from the molochs at Time Warner, **VIBE** is the most comprehensive and attractive hip-hop site in cyberspace. You'll find most of the contents of *Vibe's* newsstand edition here. As with the print version, the focus is more on lifestyles than on music. The site deals with the totality of hip-hop culture, from phat clothing to the cartoon art of Peter Kuper. Huge audio and video archives, bulletin boards reacting to the latest rap rumors, and the VIBewire—the UPI for news in hip-hop land—make this an essential site.

www.vibe.com ★★★★★

DAVEY D'S HIP HOP CORNER is an intelligent and well-thought-out site that

dispels the myth of rap and hip-hop music as being a haven for thugs and "gangstas," and includes a history of hip-hop. Davey D takes Malcolm X's "knowledge is power" rap to heart. In the massive "What is Hip Hop" section, old-school master DJ Afrika Bambaataa offers up one of the better definitions of the scene: "Hop music is made from Black, brown, yellow, red, white...whatever music that gives you the grunt...that funk...that groove or that beat...It's all part of hip hop...." This is a good hangout, with chat, message boards, and the opportunity to submit your own raps. The weekly news reports, though, were months old when we looked.

www.daveyd.com/index.html ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

The strikingly handsome but slow-loading **HIP HOP MECCA** makes a bid to be the ultimate bomb hub site. It's constantly updated, and it's the place to catch the latest news in the hip-hop scene. The

New Ish section features "new streaming real audio joints hot off the streets." and claims that, "Most of the time we get the new joint's before they hit store shelves and sometime's before other dj's receive the material." The site also features a link to Web hip-hop radio station WEMF-RADIO. The Press section is a guide to the rumors swirling about the hip-hop scene.

dahome.simplenet.com/MAIN.html ★★★★★



Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, 25, has returned to recording after years of writing for other artists.



LL Cool J was the first rap artist to hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Black Singles chart.

A wonderful feature of **HIP-HOP.COM** is the striking graffiti art plastered all over it. This California-based site offers sections on social awareness, DJ battles, and links to hip-hop organizations such as the Zulu Nation. But the pictures of graffiti walls, trains, trucks, buses, and more are the best reason to stop by.

www.hip-hop.com ★★★★★

Leave it to the Dutch to come up with **THE TOTALLY UNOFFICIAL RAP DICTIONARY**. Patrick Atoon and Niels Janssen have been at this labor of love for more than five years, and they have created what may be a cyber-Rosetta stone for those on the fringes of the scene. It offers crisp and clear definitions to the complex and constantly changing linguistic world of hip-hop.

www.sci.kun.nl/thalia/rapdict

★★★★★

for
America Online
Users

RAP/R&B: This comprehensive forum includes up-to-the-minute tour dates for a handful of hip-hop artists, plus well-trafficked chat rooms.

Keyword: R&B

THE ULTIMATE RAP PAGE is about as utilitarian as Web sites get: It's all raps, all the time, with links to 100 rap jams in four different audio formats—from .WAV to RealAudio. The musical menu ranges from A Tribe Called Quest to the Fugees. A great sampler for the uninitiated.

www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/2387/index.html ★★☆☆

Ohio's **WWW.DEEP-NET.COM** is jammed with audio samples. What makes it unique, though, is its collection of old-school jams, such as a vintage slice of Kool Moe Dee back in 1981. In the rapidly changing world of rap, 17 years ago is beyond "back in the day" and akin to listening to a vintage Robert Johnson blues 78-rpm record.

www.deep-net.com ★★☆☆

THE ORIGINAL HIP HOP LYRIC ARCHIVE is a bit mind-boggling in its completeness. Most of the lyrics are submitted by viewers. The site maintainer is diligent in accepting corrections and new submissions.

www.public.iastate.edu/~hip-hop/homepage.html ★★☆☆ —J.L.

BEST FAN SITES

Hard to believe, but the late Tupac Shakur has joined Elvis in the faked-death-to-get-away-from-fame category. **Is Tupac Dead?** explores the issue by using clues that the deceased rapper left in his last recordings. members.aol.com/subseven/tupac.html

The Beastie Boys are responsible for the outbreak of "whiggers"—white boys who try to be taken for albino African-Americans. **Beastie Boys 101** is loaded with audio clips, photos, and lyrics about a group that reflects rap, punk, and goof-off fun. www.flash.net/~korner



The Beastie Boys blend rap, punk, and goofiness.

"In The mystical world of Bone Thugs ~n~ Harmony, gun blasts fade into the sound of paparazzi's cameras clicking, the wail of police sirens blend into cheers of adoring fans and instead of waiting for welfare checks, Layzie Bone, Krazie Bone, Bizzy Bone and Wish Bone are strictly signing royalty checks." So says the **Ismael Bone** fan page devoted to those Cleveland rappers. There are lots of video and audio clips and a link to the Cleveland Indians' official site—the only baseball link we've ever seen on a rap site! henge.com/~msmith/bone.html

The stylish **Da Wu Base** site is the best of the many Wu-Tang Clan fan sites. The site features the usual multimedia clips, as well as a real-time chat. www.clarinet.fi/~paipy

THE WEB'S NO MYSTERY!



Now you
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be a detective
to find the
Web's most
intriguing
sites!

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of users already know!



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winner..."

The Los Angeles Times

**Harley Hahn's
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is the phenomenally popular Internet guide to thousands of the best and most interesting web sites, discussion groups, electronic mailing lists, and more.

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Available at local book and computer stores, or by
calling Osborne/McGraw-Hill at 1-800-262-4729.

OSBORNE

Calendars

THE BEST ★★★★★

Does your life revolve around planting and germination tables? Religious holidays? How about full moons? Find a themed calendar, make it your brows-



er's home page, and you'll always know where (and when) you stand. **TODAY'S DATE AND TIME** may not sound like an exciting subject until you consider the fact that it includes *everything* there is to know about the current day and lots of other days, too. Links to calendars of every conceivable format can be found here, from ancient Aztec to star charts and planetary calendars. This site has the best calendar links, and it's the place to visit if you are looking for a religious or cultural calendar—such as an Islamic Calendar Converter—for Chinese Calendar conversions or to learn on which day Easter falls.

www.panix.com/~wlinden/calendar.shtml

★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Are you ruled by the heavens? Since 1792, **THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC** has

been staying on top of moon phases, solar and lunar eclipses, sunrise and sunset times, and frost and outdoor-planting charts (for the U.S. and Canada). Did you know that the best time to plant is during the light of the moon, between the day that the Moon is new to when it is full? Check the *Almanac's* Full Moon Chart to find out when these days are for each year until 2001.

www.almanac.com ★★★★★

This handy site should keep you from having to spend any more time in the dog house. **eORGANIZER** is the Web equivalent of a notebook organizer designed to be used as a home page. Register for

this free service and you can enter appointments, birthdays, addresses, and a to-do list. The service will e-mail you a reminder of your event before it occurs or your appointments and to-do list any time you request it.

www.eorganizer.com ★★★★★

Nothing is worse than traveling abroad only to find that everything is closed when you arrive because it's National Annoy the Tourists Day. Before you plan a trip, check the **WORLD HOLIDAY AND TIME GUIDE**. Type in a country, and it'll tell you every holiday. Or plug in a date, and it'll tell you where in the world people are celebrating on that day and why.

www.jpmmorgan.com/cgi-bin/HolidayCalendar

★★★★★

The **ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR** will calculate the Western and Orthodox Easter dates for both Julian and

Gregorian calendars. The **AMERICAN SECULAR HOLIDAYS CALENDAR**, from the same site designer, will do the same for all other movable feasts for any year you type in, from A.D. 325 onward. Good historical notes help put these dates in context.

cssa.stanford.edu/~marcos/ec-cal.html

★★★★★

cssa.stanford.edu/~marcos/ushols.html

★★★★★

THIS DAY IN HISTORY, from The Learning Channel, has news items from the past—starting at about 1850—along with famous birthdays and radio chart-toppers.

www.historychannel.com/thisday ★★★★★

BRITANNICA'S LIVES shows a list of famous people (and their bios) who were born on any day you select.

www.eb.com/lives ★★★★★

For those addicted to trivia, **D.T.'S TODAY IN ALL KINDS OF HISTORY DATEBOOK!** has acres of history, facts, and jokes for each day of the current month.

interprep.com/datebook ★★★★★ —L.K.

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Granted, remembering when leap year falls can be a bit of a pain. But do we need a revolution? Maybe. **The Home Page for Calendar Reform** (ecuvax.cis.ecu.edu/~Pymccart/calendar-reform.html) promotes the World Calendar, where all the dates are fixed (i.e., Election Day would always be November 7; Thanksgiving would always be November 23). Or we could go the mathematically logical route: **The Metric Calendar** (www.eonet.com/~wgatchel/mtrctime.htm) is based on a system of 10 days in a week. True radicals, though, support the **Thirteen Moon 28-Day Calendar** (www.earthportals.com/Earthportals/Portal_Messenger/arguelles.html#thirteen), whose proponents—the Autonomous People's Planetary Moral Emergency Committees—have taken a "Biospheric Oath" to promote their system and save us all from planetary destruction.

Paying for Your New Home

THE BEST ★★★★★

You've pinpointed your dream house, and you've got to have it. Now the financial fun begins! Make **HOMEBUYER'S FAIR** your first stop. This well-designed site offers first-time buyers a crash course in home economics: Primers and calculators for mortgages and salary adjustments—as well as detailed info on schools, crime, and insurance rates in your prospective neighborhood—will all give you an idea of what to expect. And if your new nest is in another city, Homebuyer's Fair offers yet more calcu-

ON THE SERVICES

AOL's Bank Rate Monitor, a pared-down version of the eponymous Web site, includes news and rates. Its MoneyWhiz forum holds an interesting set of FAQs for the first-time buyer.

Keywords: *BRM, MoneyWhiz*

MSN's Money Insider has tips and essays about making the smart buy.

Channel 4

lators that not only compute your moving costs between any two continental U.S. cities but provide cost-of-living comparisons for more than 500 cities in the U.S. as well. The one feature we'd avoid like the plague is the change-of-address service, which promises to simplify your mail forwarding. Give them this much personal data and you might as well sign your life over to junk mailers. www.homefair.com/home ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

If a home inspector misses the telltale patches on the kitchen ceiling that sug-

gest a leak from an upstairs shower, for example, it could cost you thousands of dollars. We're not recommending you do without professional advice, but if you'd like tips on what to look for, check out

the offerings at **HOUSEMASTER**, from the United Homeowners Association. UHA's site offers tips on spotting—and then dealing with—such common homeowner headaches as termite infestation, leaky roofs, and radon contamination. You can also e-mail questions to the large home-inspection firm that provides information for the site. UHA even has an online store where you can order how-to books on home inspection, in addition to useful tools, such as carbon-monoxide detectors.

www.uha.org/uha/housemaster/body.htm

★★★★☆

By some estimates, half of all home buyers simply go with the mortgage recommended by their real-estate agent. That's a shame, because this mortgage isn't always the best deal—it's just the one the agent is getting a kickback to push. Don't sign anything without checking out **BANK RATE MONITOR**, which provides the most thorough survey of mortgage rates, covering more than 110 cities nationwide. A helpful step-by-step guide (click on "How to") will help first-timers through the entire mortgage process, from terminology to key questions you should ask a prospective lender.

www.bankrate.com ★★★★★

QUICKEN MORTGAGE is another good guide to the mortgage process, with



helpful articles and columns, plus an annotated, comparative chart of available loans tailored to your financial needs based on your answers to a series of questions. Just make sure you know how much you want to spend before you drop by.

mortgage.quicken.com ★★★★★

HOME DOCTOR. Rob Zee, a former mechanical contractor, publishes a weekly e-mail newsletter offering helpful tips on handling common homeowner headaches.

homedoctor.net ★★★★★

—D.F.

PAY LESS & SAVE TREES

If you want a new home but can't help thinking about all the trees that die for the cause, enroll at the **Yellow Mountain Institute**, a nonprofit organization that promotes enviro-friendly housing. Here you'll learn about building houses with recycled tires, cordwood, and straw bale (and plastering the latter with adobe or stucco, so your friends never know your secret). The best part is that these alternative abodes cost half as much to build and are more energy efficient. If you go with the straw-bale design, of course, you'll have to endure lots of Three Little Pigs jokes.

monticello.avenue.gen.va.us/Community/Environ/YellowMtn

Keeping Up with the New Sites

THE BEST ★★★★★

An average day sees hundreds of Web sites taking their first bow. Rather than feel swamped by these relentlessly crashing waves of new information, you should look on the bright side: There are people out there keeping tabs on what's new and worthwhile. Librarians and educators, for example, read hun-



dreds of site announcements each week. One of the Web's oldest content watchers is located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and it has put said bookish types to work to bring us the **INTERNET SCOUT PROJECT**. The Scout Report contains descriptions of new sites for the education community, but anyone can profit from a visit. Their surfers present the best, sorted by academic discipline. The K.I.D.S. (Kids Identifying and Discovering Sites) Report, by and for K-12 students, also filters new sites. Granted, you won't

find many entertainment or corporate sites, but it remains a remarkable resource and showcases the Internet at its very best.

scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/index.html ★★★★★

The stylish **NETSURFER DIGEST** is a free e-zine that each week brings you short, crisp news items, notices, letters, and site reviews designed to provide an informative and entertaining snapshot of the vast wired world. Netsurfer's content contains reflective commentary and a useful perspective on new sites, many of them entertainment-oriented. The price for this service is your receipt of a weekly advertising e-mail. It's a good deal, indeed.

www.netsurf.com/nsd

★★★★★

Call us biased, but our very own **YAHOO!** is right up there with the best when it comes to learning about what's new on the Net. Through its What's New page, you can link to new sites, which are listed

daily, by category—from Arts to Society & Culture—or as a complete listing. You can also receive a discriminating list of new sites via e-mail.

www.yahoo.com/new ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Keeping you up to speed with the Internet is what **WHAT'S NEW** is all about. You can search its site through 29 categories, including Movies & Theater and Religion & Spirituality, or you can

SPECIALTY SERVICES

Many people keep tabs on new sites in specialized areas all across the Internet. **BERIT'S BEST SITES FOR CHILDREN** (db.cochran.com/li_toc:theoPage.db), for example, a project of Cochran Communications, an Internet media company, contains just what its name suggests. A What's New section keeps you current, and a five-point rating scale gives you guidance. If you want to read all about it but don't have the time, **THE WRITE NEWS** (writenews.com) can provide you with the latest news in the publishing and writing fields plus more than 1,000 links to national and international newspapers and other media resources. **BIZPROWEB** (www.bizproweb.com) doesn't keep track of a multitude of new Internet resources, but the single new Web site and newsgroup (and item of shareware) featured each day add up.

view a complete list. What's New will also e-mail you weekly listings of new sites according to categories you choose, a service no one else offers.

www.whatsnu.com ★★★★★

WHAT'S NEW TOO lists sites based on 17 categories (including Adult). Brief descriptions accompany each listing, but there is no attempt to assess a site's value. Sites are said to be listed within 36 hours of receipt.

newtoo.manifest.com ★★★★★

—P.B.

PROMOTING YOUR OWN

So you have a new Web site, and you want to let the world know about it. One way is just to sit tight. Several search engines, such as **ALTAVISTA** and **LYCOS**, have digital robots that search the Internet for new sites such as yours. A more proactive (and much less time-consuming) approach is to use free services such as **SUBMIT IT!** (www.submit-it.com), which registers your site with hundreds of search sites and directories. Also, pay a visit to **COMP. INFOSYSTEMS.WWW.ANNOUNCE**. This newsgroup will be happy to post a message about your new Web site (so long as it's not a commercial one).

Writing a Research Paper

THE BEST ★★★★★

A skilled reference librarian can be a gold mine and a student's best friend. The best virtual reference librarian around is the **A+ RESEARCH AND WRITING FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS** section of the Internet Public Library. It's a crucial stop, especially if you're planning to conduct any of your research online. This extensive guide is particularly helpful during the critical research planning stages. For example, there's a succinct discussion of the types of information you can and cannot expect to find on the Internet, along with a good selection of professionally vetted links. If your shorts are really in a twist, proceed directly to Quick Tips for the Panic Stricken.

www.ipl.org/teen/aplus

★★★★★

Can't decide on a topic? Check the Idea Directory at **RESEARCHPAPER.COM**.

Then get your research started by linking directly to search engines, magazines, newspapers, and other research materials. The Writing Center provides help on style, grammar, and citing electronic resources.

www.researchpaper.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Your paper is done! Or is it? You've still got to put the bibliography together. Listing your sources is easy enough, but the punctuation and style will often trip you up. Thankfully, Debbie Abilock, a

school librarian in Hillsborough, California, has already taken care of much of this tedium for you with her **MLA BIBLIOGRAPHIC FORMAT INTERACTIVE FORMS**. Click on the type of resource you wish to cite—Web page, e-mail message, discussion group, newsgroup, CD-ROM, book, magazine article, interview. Fill in the blanks (author, title, and other required information) on the form that pops up, click, and voilà! Cut and paste the results into your own bibliography.

www.nueva.pvt.k12.ca.us/~debbie/library/research/research.html ★★★★★



INFO ZONE is a great step-by-step, how-to guide. It frames the research and writing process as a journey with six stages: wondering, seeking, choosing, connecting, producing, and judging. For each, it offers pointers, questions to ask yourself, links to external resources, and links to sites where you can publish your writing.

www.mbnet.mb.ca/~mstmson ★★★★★

The **HOT PAPER TOPICS** section of Where The Wild Things Are: Librarian's Guide to the Best Information on the Net features briefly annotated links to high-quality Web resources that cover a variety of timely issues for students

OTHER USEFUL GUIDES

DR. GWEN'S RESEARCH PAPER INFORMATION PAGE. Information on choosing and using a search engine
astro.fccj.cc.fl.us/LearningResources/DrGwen/research.htm

RESEARCH, REPORTS AND PRESENTATION LINKS. One-stop shopping for basic reference and writing help
www.chs.chico.k12.ca.us/lib/webres/res.html

ONLINE WRITING LAB. Honing writing skills
owl.english.purdue.edu

researching current events, such as health care reform, smoking legislation, gun control, and human rights. You'll also find pointers to information about avoiding plagiarism. Current-events

hounds should also be aware of **DOCUMENTS IN THE NEWS** at the University of Michigan Libraries Documents Center, which houses links to online government publications.

www.sau.edu/CWIS/Internet/Wild/Hot/hotindex.htm

★★★★★

www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/docnews.html ★★★★★

Whereas a research paper might be the ultimate Big

Deal assignment for the semester or the year, most students are also faced with writing essays. **PARADIGM ONLINE WRITING ASSISTANT** at Boise State University describes the four most commonly assigned types of essays—informal, thesis/support, exploratory, argumentative—and then leads the fledgling writer step-by-step through planning, formulating, composing, and refining. Writing exercises can be found here, as well as help in choosing a topic, organizing thoughts and materials, editing and revising work, and documenting sources.

www.idbsu.edu/english/cguilfor/paradigm

★★★★★

— S. K.

PRETTY P S STRANGE

Reading Bar Codes

www.pixi.com/~owens/barcodes/index.html

Maybe it's fin de siècle boredom. Bar codes are leaping off cereal boxes and onto the skin of hip Japanese clubgoers as nonpermanent tattoos. Expect this phenomenon to travel West quickly, with stateside hipsters running bar-code scanners over one another in search of tawdry binary sexual innuendos. Turn to Reading Bar Codes for the skinny on how to interpret these ugly little linear patterns. But it doesn't take a scanner or even a browser to know this: The only ones who advertise are the ones who *have* to.



The Corporation

www.thecorporation.com/icon/gallery2.html

If you've ever wondered what thousands of computer-literate Americans are doing in their copious leisure time, click on over to GeoCities or Tripod. You'll see so much homebrewed HTML, it's a wonder these folks have day jobs. Alas, few of these works have stood the chance of recognition—until now. The Corporation provides a cornucopia of awards, yours for the downloading. Choose from "I'd Rather Be Watching TV," "Eternally Under Construction," and others, as well as our favorite, pictured here.



Sell Your Soul to Satan

www.ior.com/~ficusk/satan.html

When the devil aims to deceive, you'll never even know what hit you. Visit



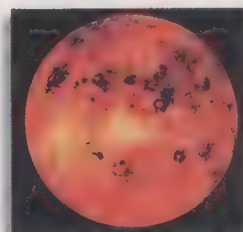
PHOTO: OSC

Sell Your Soul to Satan, and you'll end up spending some quality time not with the red-caped denizen of Hades, but with an earthly messenger of Jesus. Welcome to contemporary evangelism, with a vaudevillian flair and more than a hint of irony. Oh, and don't miss the ultimate reservation list of who's going to hell in a handbasket and why. (The Golden Girls and Willem Dafoe?)

Mars West

www.marswest.org

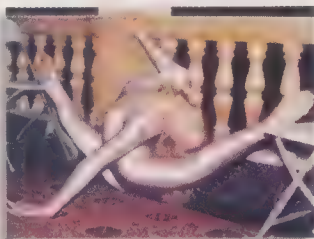
It's a sad reality: We've mapped out most of the Earth, and even most developing nations have a McDonald's. Thus, brave explorers in search of uncharted lands need a new day job—or maybe just a new destination. Mars West points toward a new place, and a new era of hopes and dreams in the spirit of Columbus and the westward wagon trains. Click here to find out just who's behind this exodus to the red planet and what these people plan to do once they get there.



Body Magic

www.jps.net/webmedia

Some people will bend over backward to make a Web site stand out from the rest. Ruby Ring, the leggy "mother of the oversplit," and April Tatro, one of the nation's most popular contortionists, have bent, curled, and twisted for the cause, and they're among the flexible types showcased here. The creators of this enchanting and passionate resource for devotees of unnatural body positions should take a bow—in the direction of their choice, of course.



The News Babe Page

www.redblazer.com/news/index.html

A mere 25 years ago, women were seldom seen anywhere near a TV-news anchor desk—unless they were getting coffee for the anchormen. Thankfully, we've risen above such sexism, and women in media are now accorded the same respect as their male counterparts. Well, in most places, at least. The hallowed News Babe Page is a checkpoint for newshounds obsessed with female news personalities, such as Joan Lunden (right)—that is, the young and personable ones. Learn about the background of each, including beauty-pageant wins, marital status, postgraduate degrees, and even levels of "Canadianism." No one *has* to do it, but these people do, and rather meticulously.



AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIPS

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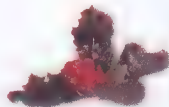
STANDARD FEATURES

512KB pipeline burst cache
128-bit, 2MB DRAM graphics
20X CD-ROM with AutoPlay™ technology
Dragon Systems' NaturallySpeaking Personal voice
recognition software
Pick-a-Point dual pointing devices
Microphone and 16-bit stereo sound
Integrated 33.6Kbps modem (upgradable to 56Kbps)
full duplex
CardBus- and Zoomed Video-ready
2 infrared ports, S-Video, NTSC, game, USB Ports
Management and Executive Travel software pak
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Microsoft Windows[®] 95 and MS Plus!
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MICRON[®] MILLENNIA[™] MME

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64MB SDRAM
6.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive
24X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
17" Micron 700FGx, .26dp (16" display)

STANDARD FEATURES

512KB pipeline burst cache, flash BIOS
Integrated 100MB Iomega Zip drive, 3.5" floppy drive
32 voice wavetable stereo sound with speakers
USR Sportster 56K x2 data/fax modem*
PCI 64-bit 3D video, MPEG, 4MB EDO DRAM
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB Connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Choice of Micron Software Solutions Pak
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

\$2,299

Bus. lease \$80/mo.

MICRON[®] MILLENNIA[™] XKU

Intel 266MHz Pentium II processor
(features MMX technology)
64MB SDRAM
6.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive
24X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
17" Micron 700FGx, .26dp (16" display)

STANDARD FEATURES

82440LX chip set
512KB internal L2 cache, 2MB BIOS
Integrated 100MB Iomega Zip drive, 3.5" floppy drive
32 voice wavetable stereo sound, Advent 009
speakers with subwoofer
USR Sportster 56K x2 data/fax modem*
Diamond Viper V330 128-bit 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Choice of Micron Software Solutions Pak
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

\$2,599

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MICRON[®] MILLENNIA[™] XKU

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor
(features MMX technology)
128MB SDRAM
8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive
24X EIDE variable speed CD-ROM drive
17" Micron 700FGx, .26dp (16" display)

STANDARD FEATURES

82440LX chip set
512KB internal L2 cache, 2MB BIOS
Integrated 100MB Iomega Zip drive, 3.5" floppy drive
32 voice wavetable stereo sound, Advent 009
speakers with subwoofer
USR Sportster 56K x2 data/fax modem*
Diamond Viper V330 128-bit 3D video with 4MB SGRAM
Microsoft IntelliMouse, USB connections
Microsoft Windows 95 and MS Plus!
Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
Choice of Micron Software Solutions Pak
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

\$3,099

Bus. lease \$106/mo.

STORAGE/MEDIA OPTIONS

Adaptec 2940UW Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller (upgrade from system with standard Ultra SCSI Fast-20 controller)	\$100
Plexstor 12/20 Plex 3MB/sec SCSI CD-ROM (upgrade from system with standard EIDE CD-ROM)	\$100 ⁽¹⁾
Iomega Jaz SCSI drive with 1GB removable cartridge	\$299 ⁽¹⁾
Iomega 6-pack of 100MB Zip cartridges	\$99

PRINTER OPTIONS

HP Deskjet 692C - Quality color printing for the home	\$269
HP Deskjet 890Cxi - premium B&W and vivid color printing for business	\$429
HP Laserjet 6Lxi - affordable B&W printing,	\$399
Lexmark 1000 Colorjet printer	\$140
Lexmark 2030 Colorjet printer - Great quality color ink jet printing for home, business, or school work	\$179
Lexmark 7200 Colorjet printer - 6-color ink jet printing delivers Lexmark's best print quality ever	\$399
Lexmark Optra E+ Laser printer - Provides quality, professional laser printing for documents, graphs, or spreadsheets	\$399
Epson Stylus Color 600 - Revolutionary Photo Quality ink jet printing for home or office	\$269
Epson Stylus Color 800 - A breakthrough in Photo Quality ink jet printing for the business professional	\$399
Canon BJC - 80 - The ultimate in portable color printing	\$299
Canon BJC - 250 - Photo-realistic color printing anyone can afford	\$149
Canon BJC - 4300 - The perfect color for the home or home office	\$199
10ft. IEEE-1284 Printer Cable	\$ 16

SOFTWARE OPTIONS

CorelDRAW 7 (full retail version)	\$299
Corel WebMaster Suite (full retail version)	\$99
Small Business Essentials	\$179

DISPLAY/VIDEO OPTIONS

17" Hitachi SuperScan CM630 (15.9" display) .26dp color monitor	\$100 ⁽²⁾
19" Hitachi SuperScan CM751 (18.0" display) .26dp color monitor	\$300 ⁽²⁾
21" Hitachi SuperScan CM801 (20.0" display) .26dp color monitor	\$650 ⁽²⁾

DESKTOP EXTENDED SERVICE OPTIONS

Optional 1st year on-site service ⁽³⁾ coverage included	
2nd year on-site service ⁽⁴⁾ coverage	\$79
2nd and 3rd year on-site service ⁽⁴⁾ coverage	\$99
Other service options may be available, ask your system consultant	

Additional options available. Please call for details.

MICRON[®] POWER[™] WARRANTY

5-year limited warranty on microprocessor and main memory
3-year limited parts-only system warranty (1-year for TransPort Vlx)
1-, 2- or 3-year optional on-site service agreement for Micron desktop and server systems
30 days of free Micron-supplied software support for Micron desktop systems; 3 optional network operating system incident resolutions included for Micron server systems
30-day money back policy
24-hour technical support
The foregoing is subject to and qualified by Micron's standard limited warranties and terms and conditions of sale. Terms and conditions of sale may vary for specific configurations. Copies of the limited warranties may be obtained on our Web site or by calling Micron.

Micron Sales Hours: Mon-Fri, 6am-10pm, Sat, 7am-5pm (MT), Sun, 10am-5pm (MT). Technical Support Available 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week. Toll free from Mexico: 95-800-708-1755 Toll free from Canada: 800-708-1758 Toll free from Puerto Rico: 800-708-1756 International Sales: 208-893-8970 International Fax: 208-893-7393



⁽¹⁾Maximum transmission speed of up to 56Kbps when downloading data and 33.6Kbps when uploading. However, actual performance is dependent upon numerous factors and observed transfer rates may be less than the maximum potentials.

- ⁽²⁾ Requires SCSI host adapter
- ⁽³⁾ Upgrade from systems with standard Micron 17" 700FGx (16" display) color monitor
- ⁽⁴⁾ 1st year on-site service is available in the United States and in limited areas in Canada from third-party service provider per customer's agreement with provider
- ⁽⁵⁾ 2nd year and 2nd and 3rd year offerings are available in the United States only. Extended services, if purchased after system shipment may have a higher cost.
- ⁽⁶⁾ Service will be scheduled, whenever possible, for the next business day after parts are received by the customer.

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